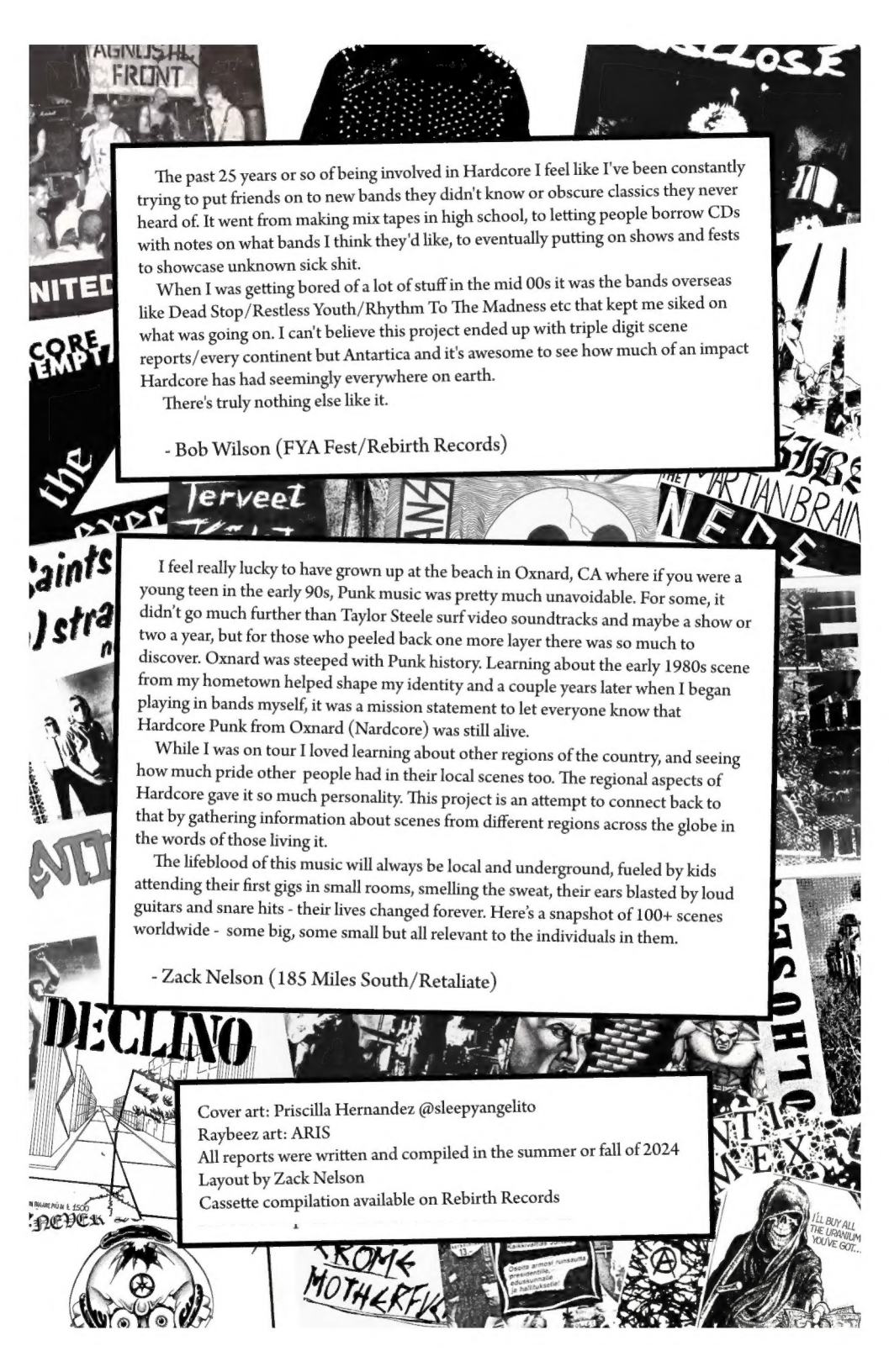


185 MILES SOUTH OF SOMEWHERE

HARDCORE PUNK SCENE REPORTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE





The past 25 years or so of being involved in Hardcore I feel like I've been constantly trying to put friends on to new bands they didn't know or obscure classics they never heard of. It went from making mix tapes in high school, to letting people borrow CDs with notes on what bands I think they'd like, to eventually putting on shows and fests to showcase unknown sick shit.

When I was getting bored of a lot of stuff in the mid 00s it was the bands overseas like Dead Stop/Restless Youth/Rhythm To The Madness etc that kept me siked on what was going on. I can't believe this project ended up with triple digit scene reports/every continent but Antarctica and it's awesome to see how much of an impact Hardcore has had seemingly everywhere on earth.

There's truly nothing else like it.

- Bob Wilson (FYA Fest/Rebirth Records)

I feel really lucky to have grown up at the beach in Oxnard, CA where if you were a young teen in the early 90s, Punk music was pretty much unavoidable. For some, it didn't go much further than Taylor Steele surf video soundtracks and maybe a show or two a year, but for those who peeled back one more layer there was so much to discover. Oxnard was steeped with Punk history. Learning about the early 1980s scene from my hometown helped shape my identity and a couple years later when I began playing in bands myself, it was a mission statement to let everyone know that Hardcore Punk from Oxnard (Nardcore) was still alive.

While I was on tour I loved learning about other regions of the country, and seeing how much pride other people had in their local scenes too. The regional aspects of Hardcore gave it so much personality. This project is an attempt to connect back to that by gathering information about scenes from different regions across the globe in the words of those living it.

The lifeblood of this music will always be local and underground, fueled by kids attending their first gigs in small rooms, smelling the sweat, their ears blasted by loud guitars and snare hits - their lives changed forever. Here's a snapshot of 100+ scenes worldwide - some big, some small but all relevant to the individuals in them.

- Zack Nelson (185 Miles South/Retaliante)

Cover art: Priscilla Hernandez @sleepyangelito

Raybeez art: ARIS

All reports were written and compiled in the summer or fall of 2024

Layout by Zack Nelson

Cassette compilation available on Rebirth Records

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OXNARD, CA

VINCENT AMADOR



BARE MINIMUM PHOTO: DAVE MANDEL



BRIEF HISTORY: The Rotters put out two 7" in the late 70s but the first true Nardcore (Oxnard + Hardcore) band to make its mark was Agression who were both playing locally and in LA by 1981. They were joined soon after by Ill Repute, Stalag 13, Dr. Know and others who would become notable names associated with first wave Hardcore. In '82/'83 most of the shows these bands played in the 805 were at the Goleta Valley Community Center, La Casa De La Raza (Santa Barbara), or at Casa Tropical at the Oxnard airport. All four of the aforementioned bands would put out classic 12" in 1983 or 1984. A generation of kids who caught the tail end of this scene would be the life's blood to fire it up again locally in the early/mid-90s. Those bands plus the originals influenced the next wave and the cycle continues.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Ill Repute, Agression, Dr. Know, Stalag 13, RKL, False Confession, Burning Dog, No Motiv, The Missing 23rd, In Control, Annihilation Time, Violation

CURRENT BANDS: Torenna, Dead Heat, Ceramik, Bare Minimum, Downpresser, Minus, In Time, Omega Point, Detach, Centerpoint, Outwest, Plausible Deniability, Sordo, Out Of Trust, Retaliate, The Warriors

SHOW SPACES: The CFF (Oxnard), Rapid Skateshop (Simi Valley), All Kinds Studio (Ventura), The Mystery Shop (Oxnard)

FOOD/DRINK: Back Bench Pizza (Ventura), Smokin Jays (Oxnard), Rascal's (Santa Barbara), The Dutchess (Ojai), Dang Burger (Carpinteria), Prospect Coffee Roasters (Ventura).

All of these places are owned/operated by people with some sort of connection to punk/hc in the 805. Go here instead of Starbucks and McDonalds. They're all vegan/vegetarian friendly too. Also shoutout Nard Thai & Taco De Mexico (5th St/Oxnard).

RECORD STORES: Salzers, Grady's, Record Outlet

LOCAL CREATIVES: PROMOTERS: VCHC Shows, TBD Presents, Check Yourself, Midnight Society Productions ARTISTS: Luis Amezcua, Eric Coronado, Rae Herrera, Frankie Hernandez ZINES: Enthusiasm For Ruin, It's Alive PHOTOGRAPHERS: Rue Hernandez, Ray Barela, Sara Rodriguez, Ellie Pineda RADIO: Your Life In America, Hardcore Nardcore

SCENE STATUS: It's as alive as it's ever been. There's a hardcore show almost every week and a lot of new people are coming in and contributing right away. 5 years ago there weren't really any all ages venues or shows that weren't at a bar/brewery of some sort. There are way more places that allow punk/DIY to happen in their spaces now and that's a net positive. Fuck bar shows!!! A lot of different kinds of people have gone to their first hc show in the 805 in the last 2 years and a good amount of them are starting their own bands/booking their own shows too. As long as people keep coming back to shows and bringing new people in then the scene should stay strong in the future like it is today.

PARTING WORDS: Nardcore for life.

BRIEF HISTORY: The Zeros, The Dils, and The Penetrators are all first wave Punk bands from San Diego County who put out records in 1977/78. SD in the 80's was called Slow Death with Battalion of Saints and the violence that came with the first wave of hardcore. There were shows at the North Park Lions Club, Fairmount Hall, the Adams Avenue Theater, and the Jackie Robinson YMCA. Bad Compilation Tapes and Vinyl Communications were important San Diego record labels. Late 80's and early 90's brought hardcore bands like Amenitty and Forced Down while powerviolence legends Crossed Out made their mark. The 00s brought tons of 80's revival bands, be it skate punk, crossover, straight edge, or Oi.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: The Zeros, The Penetrators, Battalion of Saints, Cardiac Kidz, Xterminators, Autistics, The No No's, Neighborhood Watch, Crossed Out, Insolents, First Offense, Lewd Acts, Over My Dead Body, Swindle, Cold Stare, Unbroken, Headcount, Built To Last, Struggle, Heroin, Some Girls, Crime Desire, Find Him and Kill Him, and all the bands on the Our Blow Out! cassette compilation from 1983.

CURRENT BANDS: Abstain, Hereditary, Mongrel, Therapy, Serenity, Madrugado, Purest Bond, Bayonet, Department of Education, Sumo, Human Resources, Take Offense, All Beat Up.

SHOW SPACES: Che Cafe, Brown Building, Corazon Del Barrio, Print Shop, Tower Bar and Soda Bar.

EAT/DRINK: Heartwork Coffee is the best coffee in the city and it's not even close. Owned by a core legend Rob Moran. Veg Food: Underdog, Pokez Mexican Restaurant, Ranchos Cocina, Plant Power Fast Food, Evolution Fast Food, Donna Jean, TNT Pizza, Pizzeria Luigi, Veganic, Plumeria.

RECORD STORES: North County: Standards Records, La Mesa: Reanimated Records.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoter: Dredd Presents. Zoned In. Pikos Y Lagrimas. Art Creator: Nate Delgallego. Zine Royalty: Matt Ants has been doing

SAN DIEGO, CA

DEREK SINOCK

full zines for a hot minute, and Mike Owyang has the best photo zines I've ever seen. Photographers: Kevin O'Bryant, Daniel Rodriguez, Ben Nahoum. 185 Miles South Podcast.

SCENE STATUS: Growing, thriving, and healthy.

PARTING WORDS: Stay true to yourself and your friends and the fakes will see themselves out. Start bands. Write zines. Throw shows.

PIKOS Y LAGRIMAS & DREDD PRESENTS

MONGREL

SAN DIEGO HEAVIEST

ALL AGES

MISSING LINK

FEATURING

OUTTA POCKET

REALITY SHOW

HEREDITARY SERENITY

THE MONGREL SHOW

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DOORS AT 6:30
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**SATURDAY
AUGUST 17TH**

TAKE OFFENSE PHOTO:
Kevin O'Bryant @kevoscope



BRIEF HISTORY: This is Los Angeles so the history here is anything but brief. We have so many huge moments and important pieces of the HC + punk history. I started my journey in the early 90's with bands like Bad Religion, The Vandals, etc. and the scenes here had already been going strong since the 70's.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Oh man, this list would be huge, imo. Some notable bands for me personally would be Bad Religion, Suicidal Tendencies, Infest, Strife, Final Conflict, Dystopia, NOFX, Pennywise, Inside Out, Fear, Youth Brigade, The Germs, and, and, and, and...

CURRENT BANDS: Human Garbage, Torena, Wise, Desmadre, No Way Out, Cosmic Joke, Firestarter, Deadbody, Momentum, Twist of Cain, Leave No Doubt, Dark Uniform, Section H8, Scalp, Castillo, Mongrel, Problem, Dead City... and then the not SO current, but still (mostly) active: Terror (weird to mention but oh well), Fury, Soul Search, Piece By Piece, Twitching Tongues, God's Hate, Take Offense, Xibalba, Alpha & Omega, ACxDC... there's definitely some I'm missing here but i'll spare you the punishment.

SHOW SPACES: We got some awesome spots right now, thankfully. 1720 Warehouse, 1st Street Billiards, The Midnight Hour, Programme Skate Shop, The Haven, Supply & Demand, The Ukrainian Cultural Center, Chain Reaction, Genghis Cohen... which are all independently owned & ran. There's a few other more "corporate" places that we have great relationships with and have good people on the inside... The Belasco, The Observatory, Zebulon, The Lodge Room... the list goes on.

HANGOUTS: I would say mostly at the shows since there's so many happening each week. Maybe a venue like The Midnight Hour since it's also an amazing record store. There's also a lot of really cool HC / punk adjacent coffee shops / restaurants / bars / vintage stores here that people always frequent or that host different events at... Lethal Amounts, Little Fish, Heavy Water, The Cha Cha Lounge, VARSITY / Mills Vintage...

FOOD/DRINK: Perfect segue into this... Little Fish is an insanely good place to eat that is I believe owned / ran by people(s) in Cosmic Joke. They do a vegan fish fillet sandwich that goes crazy. For coffee I usually hit Kindness + Mischief or Civil in Highland Park but Heavy Water is also amazing and there's SO many more. There's a cool NYHC sorta themed bar in DTLA called The Slipper Clutch that was managed by someone from Token Entry that moved to LA years ago. I believe he recently left and the place was bought out by some other people so I'm not really sure if the NYHC-chic will remain. This is Los Angeles, you can't throw a rock in any direction without hitting a spot that serves bomb vegan food or has A+ coffee.

RECORD STORES: I grew up going to Vinyl Solutions in HB, all the different Bionic Records locations (which I'm not sure how many are still around), Headline Records on Melrose... Midnight Hour is the new, best spot. There's also Programme down in the OC.

LOCAL CREATIVES: We got 197 and HolaSoyKeto who film most shows in the area. We got a TON of great photographers these days (some of them are transplants here)... Kat Nijmeddin, Danille Parsons, Oscar Rodriguez, Miguel

Maldonado, Shawn Madden, Quinn Tucker, Gabe Becerra, Joe Calixto, Alexis Gross... again, the list goes on. Shout out to the OGs Dan Rawe, Dave Mandel, and Fred Hammer. As far as zines go, to be honest I don't really know many currently aside from Today Forever, but they're great and doing very cool stuff.

SCENE STATUS: Immaculate.

ALPHA & OMEGA PHOTO:
Oscar Rodriguez (@bloomxphoto)



LOS ANGELES, CA

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STAPLE - MORE TEA
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AUDITORY ANGUISH
SCOTCH CUTIE - FORCED TO SLURP
HIGHTON - PRIGLY OF HATE
MIDNIGHT HOUR

ALPHA & OMEGA
JUNE 28TH
LIVE - A MOURNING STAR - ENERVATE
BARRIO SLAM - SMOKE 909 - GOD AWFUL
@THE HAVEN

JUNE 29TH
VAMACHARA - EXTINGUISH
LIVE - QUIET FEAR - WATCH YOU FALL
@THE MIDNIGHT HOUR

CERAMIK / INTERCOM
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TERROR
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DOWNPRESSER
END IT
LIKE IT OR NOT
Sluggar

THE HOLLYWOOD PALLADIUM

ORANGE COUNTY, CA

COLE KOOPMANS

BRIEF HISTORY: Orange County hardcore to me stems all from the punk scene of the early 80s with bands like The Adolescents, The Vandals, TSOL (even though most members were predominantly from Long Beach), Social Distortion and more. Notable venues that were influential to Orange County Hardcore at this point include the Cuckoo's Nest, DIY spaces, and Fenders (also in Long Beach). Nemesis records was founded and produced many classic hardcore releases from Against the Wall, Insted, Reason to Believe and another little Orange County band that was inspired by TSOL and The Damned called The Offspring. They ended up doing a few things. As time went by new ethics of influence were introduced with bands like Uniform Choice and later No For An Answer, Unity, and more which lead to the diverse sound of Orange County hardcore from Ignite basically kicking of the "97 revival" to bands like Throwdown and Adamantium coming into the mix on Orange County label Indecision Records. Revelation Records also moved to Huntington Beach in 1990 from New Haven Connecticut. Mike Hartsfield also formed New Age Records. While the label was based in Big Bear California, back in OC New Age is one of the most influential labels of all time with its first release being the 7 inch by Norwalk's Walk Proud.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Outspoken, Uniform Choice, Insted, Inside Out, Pushed Aside, Hardstance, Ignite, TSOL, The Adolescents, The Vandals, Social Distortion, Farside, No For An Answer, Throwdown, Visual Discrimination, Chorus of Disapproval, DI, The Offspring, Against the Wall, Reason To Believe, Sense Field, Final Conflict, and many many more.

CURRENT BANDS: As of right now the most notable and influential and active Orange County band to me is Fury. From starting in the demo core revival of Moshers Delight records to releasing arguably the best California hardcore record in the past 10 years Fury is the one that sticks out. They have evolved into a unbelievably special band that in my opinion is the best representation of an Orange County band that also honors its past and has continued to influence 10 years after its formation.

SHOW SPACES: In my opinion the best spot in Orange County is Programme skate and sound. Plug in and play and you sound how you sound. It's been a staple in Orange County for years for kids who want to set up gigs and play a show. There's obviously Chain Reaction which is the best sounding venue I've still have ever played but Hardcore should always be centered around DIY culture and setting up a gig wherever you can.

FOOD/DRINK: We have TONS of amazing spots in OC for Coffee drinkers and vegetarian/vegans. The best for Coffee is Play Coffee in Fullerton and for

vegan/vegetarian food the big ones are Nice Burger, Chicana Vegana, and Thai Basil in Fullerton next to Programme.

RECORD STORES: Radiation Records, Vinyl Solution, Programme Skate and Sound.

LOCAL CREATIVES: From all the current Moshers who show up to every show like Allegrah, Zack Byrens, Erik, Edgar, and all the young bucks in Silenced. I can't talk about anyone prevalent to OCHC without naming Dave Mandel from his label to his photography. He's an unbelievably influential person.

SCENE STATUS: Prospering and growing with more and more young kids getting into hardcore (start more fast bands. Less heavy HC.) I want to believe it will be even stronger in five years with kids who have learned more and more about the previous history of all this and will come more kids with more influences other than just the contemporaries.

PARTING WORDS: Start a band, do a label, go to shows and be yourself. Don't let your peers be a reason to not participate and contribute. Hardcore is about individuality just as much as it is about community. Listen to Screaming for Change by Uniform Choice.

FURY PHOTO: DAVE MANDEL



BRIEF HISTORY: AVHC has been around since the early 80s I wanna say, some of my OGs credit a band Baboon as the first AVHC band but I've heard a few others say different but some of the first more notable bands to sort of break out the local scene into more of So Cal are stuff like Terminal Holocaust, Drunken Mishap & Fed-Up. The scenes has had its ups n downs in my lifetime but currently is arguably the strongest I've seen it.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: From the Antelope Valley proper I'd probably say bands like Terminal Holocaust, Mother Mary, High Tension, Slick Shoes, Sovereign Strength, Life for a Life, Amenaza, Get Greens, Broken Cuffs, Fed-Up!, Drunken Mishap, Live For Today, One Step Forward & Endnote

CURRENT BANDS: There's a bunch of sick bands killing it right now like All Eyez, Deism, Deathsworn, Shiiva, Triste, Broken Cuffs, Owl, Nuke Em High, Church Crowd, Krome, Overbite & Remedy

SHOW SPACES: There's a few spots right now fortunately we got some for more smaller diy style shows spots like No Comply that the homie AV Rabid books out of we also got shows that happen at parks, deserts or under the freeway but that's more lawless stuff. For like bigger shows n stuff there's places like the Cedar Center in Lancaster or Transplants in Palmdale.

FOOD/DRINK: Monster Donuts, The Modern Tea Room, Ginos or Barones, lots of good food n taco trucks all over town as well. I'm vegan and I'd say Lucky Luke's Brewery, Monster Donuts, Modern Tea Room, Nopagow Thai & Sub Machine all bang.

RECORD STORES: Beyond The Grave on Lancaster Blvd is cool and Voodoo Vinyl.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters: Antelope Valley Hardcore, AV Rabid Productions, Wasted World, Sucka Punch, Numbskull.

Artists: Etats, Ultralightwaw, Brennan Mann, Bob Ackermann

Photographers: Zombie Photography, In Plain View, Vudaje, Din Le

SCENE STATUS: Currently the state is doing great, lots of great bands, lots of people mobbing to all the shows, lots of kids starting their own bands probably the strongest I've seen in years since the quarantine. It's bigger and stronger than 5 years ago and we definitely experienced that post quarantine boom. I feel most scenes did and it never wavered just kept growing. I hope it becomes a touring destination for bands. I see what friends are doing in their respective areas and it inspires me to go harder for our area.

ANTELOPE VALLEY, CA

COLE SCOTT



SHIIVA PHOTO: Din Le



BRIEF HISTORY: The bay goes back to the roots of hardcore and punk back in the 70's. From Dead Kennedy's to the east bay thrash scene in the 80's. From Spazz to Rancid/Green Day to Powerhouse in the 90's. AFI, Ceremony, Allegiance... I could type out a whole essay on what the bay area has contributed to punk and hardcore, let alone the huge boom the bay is experiencing right now. Let's just say it runs deep here.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Dead Kennedy's, Metallica, Possessed, Exodus, Plutocracy, Spazz, AFI, Green Day, Rancid, Powerhouse, Allegiance, Animosity, Ceremony, a whole lot more!

CURRENT BANDS: Sunami, Big Boy, Extinguish, Outta Pocket, Scowl and Drain if we are counting Santa Cruz, Spiritual Cramp, No Right, Fentanyl, Snuffed on Sight, Field of Flames, Condition 1 and a great deal more too.

SHOW SPACES: We fortunately have a lot: Open in San Jose, Club Rodeo Rio in San Jose, Gilman in Berkeley, Cornerstone in Berkeley, Stay Gold in Oakland, Neck of the Woods in San Francisco, Thee Parkside in San Francisco. A few others, but these are currently the most consistent.

HANGOUTS: Dolores Park in SF, the mission district in general. You can see punk and hardcore types at Amoeba in San Francisco and Amoeba in east bay. Chromatic Coffee in San Jose, and of course Santana Row in San Jose

FOOD/DRINK: So my favorite Chinese food in the world is at a spot called San Tung in San Francisco, I always take bands there when they come to town. For a classic SF burrito I take people to Taqueria Cancun in San Francisco. I like Chromatic for Coffee in San Jose. For vegan friendly options I take people to Timeless for coffee/baked goods in Oakland. I like Sight Glass for coffee in the city as well. If you're down to spend a little money I recommend Orignal Joes in San Jose or San Francisco for classic Italian. Pho Saigon in San Jose. Mexico Bakery in San Jose. There's so many places here to recommend, it's kinda hard to list just a few. I'll just say if you're looking for any type of Asian food in the bay, you're covered.

RECORD STORES: Amoeba Records in SF and Berkeley, Thrill House records in the city.

LOCAL CREATIVES: I book shows with RNRG, so if you need a hardcore show in the bay, hit us up. Sam from Outta Pocket does good flyers, Joon is a great photographer, Naughty Pelican records most shows that happen here.

SCENE STATUS: Extremely strong. If I had to give it an unbiased look, in regards to attendance and current output it might be #1 in the world.

BAY AREA, CA

ACE STALLINGS

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A NIGHT OF BRUTAL HARDCORE!
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BIG BOY PHOTO:
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10BUX 7PM+
THE KNOCKOUT
21+

BRIEF HISTORY: Punk and Hardcore emerged in the Bay Area in the late 70s/early 80s. Bands like Crime, Negative Trend, The Avengers, Flipper, The Nuns, and of course Dead Kennedy's were some of the earliest punk bands coming out of the SF. There was also Crucifix just over the bridge in Berkeley and Ribzy in San Jose. Most of these bands were cutting their teeth at DIY venues just like the rest of us but notably Target Video, Deafclub, Mubuhay Gardens, and 924 Gilman were home to punks in the Bay Area. In the 80s, we had the Bay Area Thrash movement that led to tons of crossover bands forming or moving to The Bay. Once 924 Gilman opened as a venue the east bay scene continued to thrive, especially breakthrough bands like Rancid and Green Day. In the 90s, labels like Prank Records, Slap a Ham, and 925 Thrash helped keep the scene alive releasing Punk, Hardcore, and Power violence records and still continue to, to this day.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Besides the bands mentioned above. Sick Pleasure, Code of Honor, The Mutants, The Lewd, Fuck-Ups, Link 80, Spazz, Capitalist Casualties. The more recent past I'd mention Culture Kids, Jump Off a Building, Scalped, Punch, Face The Rail, Ecoli, Stressors, Migraine, Warkrime, and Yadoaki

CURRENT BANDS: False Flag, Spy, Xui, Mentor, Kretin, The Losers, Hogg, Grosero, Cavemen, Urban Sprawl, Leer, Repo Man, Greyhound and the shameless self plug, Fentanyl.

SHOW SPACES: Punk and Hardcore venues come and go in the bay. But we currently have a pretty solid spread of venues. In SF there is Thrillhouse Records, The Knockout, Neck of the Woods, Edinburgh Castle, Makeout Room, Thee Parkside, Kilowatt, and Bottom of the Hill. In the East Bay we have 9 Lives, Stay Gold Deli, Eli's Mile High Club, Purple House, Gilman, Ivy Room, and Victory Stables. In San Jose there is The Beat Shop, Open, Limo, and more recently, Club Rodeo.

HANGOUTS: Outside of gigs, I'd say you find most punks in the bay posted up at a park like Dolores or the Lake in Oakland. In the city mostly likely you'll run into punks in the Mission District. Even as it's becoming more gentrified each year it still the hippest neighborhood with tons of cheap eats, record stores, thrifting, and nightlife. But to be honest I'm getting old so I just hold it down at the crib mostly so I'm not sure where the kids hang out.

FOOD/DRINK: Yamo for the cheapest meal and most smackin meal in San Francisco. San Tung has the best Chinese food in the City. Victor's Pizza on Polk for the #1 slice. For Mexican food, La Palma in the Mission

is my favorite, but if you aren't from here, it's worth trying a few taquerias in the Mission. Zeitgeist, Kilowatt, Benders, Molotov's, and Thee Parkside are solid punk bars in the city. Most have food and gig's as well. SF has a ton of vegan options. I usually suggest Big Lantern, it's a Chinese restaurant that has plenty of space and faux meat option.

Tacos Boys in SF and Burrito Express in Oakland are just a couple Mexican options that have good vegan options. We are lucky in the bay, almost every restaurant has a vegan option if not an entire alternate vegan menu. There is also an all vegan coffee shop and bakery in Oakland called Timeless that I suggest to most people if they are stopping in the East Bay.

LOCAL CREATIVES: In SF, Chemical Victim is a zine and that is consistently throwing DIY punk and hardcore shows at skateparks, records stores, and most notable on a BART train. Willowhouse Records is a DIY labels also based in SF that releases local punk as well as throwing shows venues like The Knockout, Thrillhouse, Makeout Room and sometimes at transit stops like 16th and Mission or even at the beach in a cave. Taylor Todd of Urban Sprawl puts on shows under the name City Shock in both SF and Oakland. Andres used the moniker Cruel Subordination and is putting on great shows in SF and Oakland at any of the venues mentioned above. Danny and Ace have also been throwing consistently crackin' gigs for local or touring punk, hardcore, and metal acts in SF, East Bay, and San Jose as R'N'RG Presents. Tons of respect for everyone above in their efforts to keep our thriving scene alive. Murray Bowles was a legendary Bay Area Punk photographer truly dedicated to capturing DIY for decades. If you are even remotely into show photography, you have seen his work. You can't talk about show photography without mentioning Rob Coons. A scene veteran, Rob Actually has only been photographing shows for the last few years but has managed to regularly take some of the best photos of gigs that truly capture the energy of the moment. Musicians and attendees included. Darian is a live audio archivist who has been uploading recordings of gigs in the greater bay area for the past few years under the name "Sound Slicer Apparatus Archive".

SCENE STATUS: Bay Area Hardcore is currently in a renaissance. Any given day of the week, there can and will be multiple shows that are all packed. From pure local shows to smaller or larger touring acts at venues spread across the Bay Area. It seems like every week that new and young bands are popping up that I can hardly keep track. It is undisputedly one of the hottest scenes in the country right now, with many bands seeing legit commercial success and are still growing. It could be in part to renewed post pandemic interest from kids who are learning about hardcore via the internet or in part to our current "Real Bay Shit" movement that gives the scene a sense of pride in representing where they are from.

BAY AREA, CA

KENNY TURNER

PORTLAND, OR

CHIP & KIERAN/777 BOOKING

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Poison Idea, Dead Moon, The Dead Unknown, Unrestrained, Xbrutal fightX, It Prevails, Young Turks

CURRENT BANDS: Chip: Dying Wish, SLIME, Dry Socket, Misery Whip, Boltcutter, Kieran: Tolls, Breakneck Flow (shout out Eugene, OR), Clarity, Mind Palace, Aggro The Names of Our Friends (for the screamo heads)

SHOW SPACES: Currently they are few and far between when it comes to all ages venues. Right now we have Bridge City Sessions, Commonwealth Skatepark and a couple basement venues. 2 months ago we had 5 all ages venues and sadly several have shut their doors and another one is on the way out. There are several 21+ venues in Portland but due to their age restrictions, we refuse to book there.

HANGOUTS: Chip: Ilani Casino and the gambling room in Tecos. Kieran: Rudy's Pizza, Thunderbird Bar,

FOOD/DRINK: Chip: Tecos, Rudy's, Blackwater, Highwater Mark, Dave's Hot Chicken
Kieran: Thunderbird Bar, ParaDoX Cafe, Off The Griddle, Kate's Ice Cream, Never Coffee.

VEG FOOD: Kieran: Portland is one of the greatest cities in the US for vegan food. Almost Every restaurant or bar will have vegan options of some kind. Notable places are Rudy's Gourmet Pizza (luckily just down the street from one of the venues we work with) Blackwater Bar (also a venue!), Boxcar Pizza, Gnarly's Burgers, Shoofly Vegan bakery, Mis Tacones

RECORD STORES: Blackwater Records, Green Noise Records, City Noise Records, Mississippi Records

LOCAL CREATIVES: Chip: Akio, Sutton, Connor (mosh expert), Ian "The White Monster" Enger, Black Flag Library, DIY Archive PDX, 777Booking, Firing Squad Coalition
Kieran: XValX, Kyran hc, Dika hc, my dogs in Misery Whip, Both Guns Blazing Media

SCENE STATUS: By almost every account it's the best it has ever been. For the first time in many years Portland is having regular hc shows with solid turn outs and great energy. We have a ton of local bands. Our scene is incredibly young, lots of kids with a passion for hardcore and the potential to keep this momentum going for years to come. The scene 5 years ago was practically dead by all accounts.

Kieran: In the years leading up to the pandemic Portland was pretty abysmal. Luckily we did have good bands coming through frequently (shout out Emma) but the scene was full of aging punks and people who thought it was lame to move around at

shows. Despite our shortage of venues, Portland and the Northwest as a whole is looking up. Northwest Domination.

PARTING WORDS: Northwest Hardcore is the strongest it's ever been. It can be a pain in the ass to route through but it's worth the trip.



SLIME PHOTO: @psychi.media

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SEATTLE, WA

CASEY SHAW

BRIEF HISTORY: NWHC goes back to the '80's.

We have a strong history of straightedge and melodic hardcore in the late 90's, early 2000's. We have a long history of incredible punk hardcore bands that the grunge scene was born out of as well. In the early 2010's, Rainfest started and I think that played a big part in bringing the rest of the nation's eye to what we're capable of up here in the Pacific Northwest. Now we're thriving like never before, selling out all local shows and generally just going hard.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Brotherhood, Undertow, Champion, Botch, Trial, Staygold, Shook Ones, The Accused, Black Breath, Ill Intent, Wreck, Power, Oblivion. Lots more. Grunge stuff too like Alice in Chains, Nirvana, Soundgarden, Seaweed, even Pearl Jam aren't really connected to the hc scene now, but have similar roots for sure.

CURRENT BANDS: End of Dayz, Electric Chair, Physique, Iron Lung Denial of Life, Spurr, Adipocere, Skelm, Land Lost. Shout out to the bands I play in too, Apex Predator, Gag, Odd Man Out, Crawlspace. That's strictly Western Washington, we consider everything from Portland to Vancouver to Boise to be NWHC but I believe they have their own reports to make. Shoutout Witness Chamber, Ingrown, Slime, A Mourning Star, Juice, Swarm Beating just in case.

SHOW SPACES: The best spots right now are Real Art in Tacoma and Black Lodge in Seattle. They're both kind of phoenixes that rose from the ashes of former venues and are now perfect all ages spaces. Shout out to Grandma's House in Bellingham, the goated house venue. El Corazon is quite a bit bigger and a lot harder to pack out, but that spot, formerly Graceland, has really rich hc history in its walls. We have little places pop up here and there, but these are the ones that have lasted, and seem like they will last.

EAT/DRINK: The northwest is absolutely goated for teriyaki and pho. One of the first pho restaurants in the US is nearby some of our spots and it's still cheap, and insanely good. Pho Bac, there's a couple locations now. They have everything from full vegan pho to a bowl of soup with a Flintstones style hunk of meat hanging off a big ass bone sticking out of the bowl. That's about as old school as it gets. Teriyaki was invented in the NW so there's teriyaki spots everywhere you look, and that's hard to mess up. You can get pretty cheap tofu teriyaki, beef, chicken, katsu, anything. As far as coffee goes, that's probably what our region is most famous for, so you can get some fancy shit. Olympia Coffee Roasting is one of the more dope gentrified spots, and there's locations all over. The real ones know what's up with Ladybugs, Cowgirls, Beankini, Steamy Shots. Your coffee is going to be \$15 and taste like dogwater but you get a little special surprise.

SCENE STATUS: Our scene is stronger than it's ever been since I've been grown enough to come to shows on my own and understand what's actually going on. We're consistently selling out local shows and kids are going insane at every single one. I like to think that we're making a name for our region and bands are realizing it's worth the trek in and out to play up here. I know it's difficult to tour into and out of a region where the three biggest cities are less than 3 hours from each other and then it's 10-18 hours to the next big market. But we're making it worth it. We make those drives all the time, and it sucks but it's the only way to do it. In a couple months I have one show in Seattle, and then another in San Francisco the very next night. That's not going to be a fun drive. But our kids are incredibly eager to come to shows, they absolutely love moshing, and they also really love buying merch, so bands are making money... So it's worth it to come up here. It fucking rocks and I'm really proud of our scene. We've always been a tight knit, self contained scene. 5 years ago we were having fun and gigs were great, but I was one of the youngest people in the scene, and I was 26. Youth is the lifeblood of hc and at the time, outcast teenagers were a lot more drawn to soundcloud rap and starting streetwear companies. Kids just weren't showing up. There were plenty of sets where nobody moshed. Now there are shows at 200+ cap venues where we're sneaking kids in because the venue is past capacity and every single one of them is losing their minds, moshing, stagediving, singing along to every single band.

APEX PREDATOR PHOTO: Psychi



BRIEF HISTORY: I moved to Yuma in 2003, so I can't really speak on anything before that time period. I do know that punk has existed in Yuma for a really long time though. When I first came to Yuma, there were shows happening kind of sporadically. Some of them would have hardcore adjacent bands playing, but they were mostly mixed genre type shows. Not really full on hardcore shows. In 2005 I started playing in a band and shortly after that, booking hardcore shows. From that point on, my friends and I have been putting work into building and maintaining a hardcore scene in Yuma. Don't ever plan on stopping.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Beg For Life, Beast of Burden, Immortal Sins, And The River Bled, The Lions Den, Sweatshop, Tears of Michael, Glass Dimensions, The Noose Tightens, End Result, No Se, Rat Pack, Swampass, Dim View, Breakout

CURRENT BANDS: Beg For Life, Samsara, Maldito Mundo, Chain, Nalgas, Skuffed, Closed Shut, Shank, Prisoners, Limbs Outta Place, Existence Denied

SHOW SPACES: Tarros Chicali because it's the only venue in Yuma that allows hardcore shows to happen. We did have a really cool venue called RED MOON ALE HOUSE that closed down last year. Some of the sickest shows ever happened at that spot. RIP RED MOON. Whenever a venue isn't available, shows happen at a place called Prison Hill. It's an outdoor spot that is next to an old prison. The shows are run on generators. It's really tough to keep venues open in Yuma, so a lot of shows have happened at Prison Hill over the years. PRISON HILL HARDCORE.

FOOD/DRINK: Yuma has a shitload of awesome mexican food spots. My favorite local spot is Mr. G's. There's people who set up a stand outside of Tarros Chicali that fuckin ROCKS. Coffee Bean is a pretty cool coffee spot. Best spot ever is a food truck called JACKSONS FRYBREAD. Our drummer and his wife run it and their frybread is insane. Highly recommended.

SCENE STATUS: It's really cool actually. More bands than ever and more people who enjoy aggressive music than ever. There is a divide between the younger/older generation. It's being worked on though! Post Pandemic hardcore is really interesting because more people than ever are currently into hardcore and aggressive music. That seems to be the case everywhere though. In Yuma it's better because we have had actual venues to host shows at. Before the pandemic we went over 6 years without an actual venue. Did nothing but park shows. Hardcore is cyclical in nature.

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JEFF YUMA

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BEG FOR LIFE PHOTO:
ACTION RAY PHOTOGRAPHY

BRIEF HISTORY: We've always had great waves come and go depending on who you ask. Definitely have it better than most US cities but compared to really large scenes it's always felt smaller and undervalued. A couple waves would be the period of Bitter End and surrounding Texas bands that had incredibly stacked shows here in town and then the 2010's with Hardside / Afflictive Nature that also had a strong moment. Oh and the Sex Pistols played here one time in 78' lol

NOTABLE OG BANDS: F.I.R.H., Bitter End, Afflictive Nature, Hardside, Lie & Wait, Ill Informed and I'm sure I'll think of some and regret it

CURRENT BANDS: A lot of bands have recently split but currently active is U.N.I.T., Its The Limit, Locust Abortion Technician

SHOW SPACES: A dope spot we just booked and played is a spot called O'death which is smaller with a stage. If you ever played Mangos in Houston ten years ago it's a pretty good comparison. Blue house is a bigger spot that I have yet to see (playing there this weekend at the time of writing it) but I hear nothing but good things.

FOOD/DRINK: For coffee it's a no brainer with Theory Coffee. With food just don't go to mama Margie's despite what people will tell you. It's not good. Earth Burger is always a safe play. Crazy good milkshakes.

RECORD STORES: Hogwild records off Main Street

LOCAL CREATIVES: Johnny Camacho (Photographer) Ezra Ortiz (Age Of Lies Fanzine) Pat Garcia (Promoter / Bands) Thom Travieso (Artwork / Promoter)

SCENE STATUS: Healthy for sure! Awesome amount of kids showing up to every show and moshing. If we can just get a little bit more new bands that would be perfect. I've definitely seen it more bleak than it is today. I think it's all about trying to build off this huge spike with Covid. Everyone from what it sounds like had their scene get bigger post 2020 and now it's time to show those new people cool shit and why hardcore is the best.

PARTING WORDS: If your band is looking to play

SAN ANTONIO, TX

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UPSURGE PHOTO: FRANKIE



DALLAS/FORT WORTH, TEXAS

ANDY ZARATE



FLU PHOTO: @shootandpoint

HARDCORE in the TEXAS
FLU PHOTO: @shootandpoint

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BRIEF HISTORY: It goes back to the beginning like many cities across the country. The Nervebreakers put out a 7" in 1978 and opened for the Sex Pistols when they played Dallas the same year at the Longhorn Ballroom, a spot once partially owned by Jack Ruby. This was the night that Sid Vicious was left bloodied after taunting the crowd and receiving a headbutt reportedly by a 16 year old girl. Fast forward a couple decades and the region has become known for producing some of the most notable bands in Hardcore and Metal in recent years.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: There's so many to list and please forgive me to anyone I left out ANS, Spazm 151, Unit 21, Kill The Client, Bloodties, End Times, Humanerror, Balls Out, Pulled Under, Real Talk (they're still talking about that one no pun intended), COLD CASE, Since my Beloved, Vulgar Display

CURRENT BANDS: Power Trip, Frozen Soul, Ballista, Ozone, Creeping Death, Tribal Gaze, I Am, Visions Of Mortality, Soledad, Kombat, Trucido, Spit My Rage, Mass Appeal, Harcourt, Guerra Final, Heat, Force of Will, Kitetsu, Since My Beloved ill include here because I'm not even sure if they're 100 percent broken up, True 2 You, Dysmorphia, One In Tha Chamber, True Grit

SHOW SPACES: Black Cat Records, Southside in Forth Worth, Rubber Gloves, Gowl Records, Cheapsteaks are personal favorites

Where do punks and hardcore kids hang out? Older grown punks seem to like hang at double wide its in deep Ellum area which is a historic part of Dallas

EAT/DRINK: I love Rincon Tapatio right in the middle of Oak Cliff, Cosmic Cafe, emporium pies, El Palote Panadería, Spiral Diner, Pho Palace, Sunny Thai

LOCAL CREATIVES: Robert Dominguez among a few other folks who run CoTC booking John Iskander Parade of Flesh. Gray Muncy, Marcus Gonzalez, Zane Daniel for photography

SCENE STATUS: It's absolutely at its biggest its ever been. Its thriving. It's mostly young early 20s down to a lot who are still in HS and the bands are for sure some of the best this scene has ever put out. List speaks for itself imo. I see it continuing to grow with the popularity of tik for better or worse its going to draw kids as long as it stays popular.

Some kids will last, others will drop out. That's just a fact in this thing. But social media has been a factor for a lot of years now when you talk about scene growth. Also the bands from here will continue get to better and take off like they have the last 5 years. There's so many examples.

PARTING WORDS: I've been around for a while now 20 years exactly and it blows my mind constantly how far our scene has come. I can still remember going to shows that had maybe 5 people that paid. Bands/tours used to skip over DFW because we used to have a rep of not even being worth the stop and now? Well look at the names of the bands I've given already. If you ask me we're on top of the state but that's just my humble opinion. The whole state dominates. I'm so proud of the whole state. And I'm also proud of the brown/latino/ chicano/ however you identify representation that we have now more than ever.

HOUSTON, TX

DANIEL ARGUMEDO

BRIEF HISTORY: Well I'm a generation younger than the dudes in Will To Live and Pride Kills, but what I've learned from being dear friends with Rob and those guys that were around in the 90's is that the scene was fairly separated. Meaning small pockets of kids that liked hardcore in their cities and that was that. It would take big shows to bring people out. It wasn't until the late 90's that there was a move to unify under a TXHC flag. Original scenes like San Antonio, Laredo, Dallas, even Nacogdoches had one or two bands that played and tried to book shows but nothing on the scale that is possible today. People like Gabe Rodriguez in Laredo started booking the TXHC Super Bowl of hardcore, which included bands from all over TX. That definitely opened a lot of eyes and lines of networking. That laid the groundwork for the bands that came soon after like Bitter End and Iron Age. And so on, I could keep naming haha. Now Texas is a powerhouse for hardcore. Especially Houston. We have some amazing bands here that are blowing up like crazy. The rest is history...

NOTABLE OG BANDS: I'll keep this one simple. All repping Houston... Will To Live, Pride Kills, Your Mistake, and Ten Crowns. If you have never heard of any of those bands, you don't know shit.

CURRENT BANDS: I would say currently out of Houston... in no particular order... Corpse Pile, Dragged Across Concrete, Konvict, Skourge, Isolate, Finesse, ancientXones... man we're so saturated right now with such good music. So many bands, it seems like new material is being released like every Friday haha.

SCENE SPACES: The most popular venues right now are The End, a cool DIY spot that surfaced just a few years ago. There's 1810 Ojeman which is a cool spot.

Trip Six hosts the majority of the punk shows that go down in the city. And of course the legendary White Swan, I started going to shows there when I was just a teenager back in 05' 06' and still being able to book shows there myself today... it's a beautiful thing.

RECORD STORES: Vinyl Edge and Cactus Music in the city, Volume Music on the north side, Vinyl Heaven way down south.

LOCAL CREATIVES: First and foremost, Roberto Galdamez and his band Will To Live. He got the Houston hardcore scene on its feet back in 1997 and pretty much has his hand in anything that came after that. Much love to the homie! There's a few promoters in the city as well that can put on a hell of a show (FYL, Stay True Productions, DemandAFuture, and Burner Phone just to name a few) they've been holding it down for the city for a while now. There's the one and only Christopher Alexander aka GrimFilmer. I like to call him the hate\$six of Houston haha. He pretty much captures hardcore shows that go down weekly and documents it in its rawest form. He has a YouTube channel of all the shows he records. Definitely subscribe to that! A lot of people take pictures at shows but the 3 that stand out to me are McKennaphotography, Madison Rojas and Isaiah Wootton who also plays in a dope ass band called Cable. Definitely check out Cable!

SCENE STATUS: I would say it's the strongest it's ever been. You literally just gotta say, "Hey, there's a hardcore show tonight!" Flyer gets posted online and the venue is fucking packed. It's crazy how unified our scene is down here. The acceptance no matter your identity, race, background, or creed. These kids will show up and show out no matter what. Newer generations will come in and carry the torch. I'll leave you with these lyrics from a Houston band called True Intentions, "This fire, it still burns strong. This fire will keep burning long after we're gone."

PARTING WORDS: Eat well. Take care of yours. Be good to others. Don't be a piece of shit. And rock & roll.



EVERYONE BLEEDZ PHOTO:
McKennaphotography



BRIEF HISTORY: It's honestly had a long and strong history going back to the 70's. Some bands last a little while and some continue for decades. Each of the 4 major islands have high-quality bands.

What are some notable bands from your region in the past? Cringer started in Hawaii. The hardcore band Breathe In began as Last in Line on Kauai island. The Squids were an early band that is known to a lot of people. Grapefruit toured 26 states over 3 summers. National Product gained a large following. The Catalogs had a song covered by The Queers.

CURRENT BANDS: No Hero is made up of some youngsters that have opened for a large number of national acts coming to town.

SHOW SPACES: Clubs here tend to come and go but Anna Obriens has been around since 1969. NextDoor gets a lot of small to mid-size bands from out of town. We no longer have a large space unfortunately. Where do punks and hardcore kids hang out? That tends to change pretty often as well, but mostly at shows.

VEG FOOD: Hawaii always has a lot of vegan/vegetarian friendly options. It goes well with the culture. Try a "plate lunch" meal and a shave ice.

RECORD STORES: None that are specifically punk but the primary shops are Ideas Books & Music or Hungry Ear Records on Oahu and Request Music on Maui.

LOCAL CREATIVES: It's honestly too large of a list, but check out a group on facebook "Punk Rock Hawaii" for up to date info or 808shows.net for some concert flyers and ticket links.

SCENE STATUS: It has its ups and downs from time to time, but there's always a large number of bands which helps make up for the infrequent visits

HAWAII

JASON MILLER

by larger visiting bands. It feels like a bit of a slump in terms of attendance at a lot of shows but then it will be a packed house. It really just depends.

FUTURE OUTLOOK: Hard to say but what can be counted on is it still going. Just like in surfing, there's another set of waves on the horizon.

PARTING WORDS: Come to Hawaii, it's a bit expensive but a great place and there is a long lasting live local music scene.

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BRIEF HISTORY: Montana "punk" has always been pretty consistent through time with being young folk full of angst from living in cowboy ridden towns, then getting loose and wild with their sound. And some of them get so good they get put on a Mystic records comp and then join Pearl Jam *cough* Jeff Ament (Deranged Diction)

NOTABLE OG BANDS: JM vs JM, The Slandersons, NOISE NOISE NOISE, Idiot Fuel, Farley Moore, Space Heater, the Pugs, Deranged Diction, Deadnecks, Megagiant, the Helligans, Iron Cemetery, Grunt, and Crack Bong

CURRENT BANDS: The Foilies, Infinite Ammo, Poverty Porn, The Love Darts, Bull Market, Geimreadh, Pay No Mind, Meetinghouse, Scuba Steve and the Sharks, and Panic Boner, and Big Blonde

SHOW SPACES: Kirks Grocery (Billings, MT) Haufbrau (Bozeman), Labor Temple (Bozeman), VFW (Missoula), ZACC (Missoula), Monks (Missoula) and The Spacement (Great Falls)

HANGOUTS: The hardcore kids and punkers hang in Missoula as "the music hub" of the state and there it's at the skate park, and three back Alley between the ZACC and Monks. In Billings it's nowhere better than good ol Kirks' grocery.

FOOD/DRINK: I'd say the Oxford in Missoula for some good ol greasy diner food and a stiff drink. In Billings get yourself a good ol GYRO from the Athenian. For vegan spots I really dig Market on Front with a good wrap.

RECORD STORES: Ear Candy in Missoula

LOCAL CREATIVES: People here are super kind and super dedicated in supporting each other in this state! Those names I will drop for people to hit up Austin and Jordan Finn (Dreyfest Masterminds), Cameron Smith (Dead Eye Prod. Promoter), Donal Lakatua (photographer/Daisy Chain prod. Promoter), Dusty Shriver (Freak Gospel noise label runner/ Zine creator), Caleb Haynes (from Hey,ily) Forrest Adams (Photographer/Zine author), Shane De Leon (runs Kirks grocery and North Pole Records) Kye Davenwolf (scumbag summer prod. Promoter), and Ken Maraud (Scene Auntle Noise promoter)

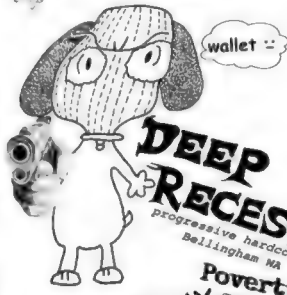
MONTANA

ISAIAH DEMONTINEY

SCENE STATUS: The current state of the scene is pretty solid! Even though the death of Flavortown DIY People are still losing their minds over the new flow of hardcore punkers from outta town, and the Rock n roll resurgence that has been happening, certainly keeps the flavor and unapologetic nature thriving. 5 Years ago I was in Billings and I'd say it was sort of at a good spot with \$5 shows that paid for the bands and the heaps of Little Caesars pizza and Booch. That and the touring bands that'd stop for the yearly festival (Julia Louis Dreyfest) that keeps the Montana scene together. I feel that the scene will keep thriving with all the good people we got.

PARTING WORDS: Montana is alright! We'd sure love to have more punkers come in!

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\$15 All Ages!

THE FOILIES PHOTO: Donal Lakatua



BRIEF HISTORY: I feel like it's always been a little all over the place and not very well documented.

Memphis is a very garage rock/blues centered music city so hardcore has always been out of focus, but I guess that's how it goes in most other cities too when it comes to heavier music. From what oldheads have told me, there was a crazy underground scene back in the day, a ton of DIY venues that all came and went pretty quick. There was a period in the mid-late 2010s where a ton of bands would come through, but those shows were typically at age-restricted venues that I was never able to get into. The stuff I did get to see really sat with me forever. I remember catching Cult Leader touring off their first LP in 2015, seeing Every Time I Die in 2017 and meeting my old bandmates there. Creeping Death, Seeyou spacecowboy and Vamachara came through in February of 2019 and that was a really formative show for me.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Reserving Dirt naps, Few Left Standing, Nights Like These, His Hero is Gone, Negro Terror, Clenched Fist, Naildriver

CURRENT BANDS: Rosary, A Kiss Before Dying, Feral God, Calamity, FUBAR, Human Shield, Spite House, Korroded, Cherry Smoke, Autolith, Ritual Fog, Skinwraith

SHOW SPACES: We've run short on venues recently as a lot of DIY/smaller spots have shuttered. Hi Tone Cafe has been a staple of Memphis hardcore for over two decades and still running strong. We also just recently opened a DIY spot called the Warehouse being run by our buds J (@g0dsdrunkestdriver) and Ben (@ben.mages). Those are our two primary spots for now. We have a larger spot called Growlers that we throw stuff at from time to time, but most of these shows are usually not big enough for us to reasonably put them there.

HANGOUTS: Society Skatepark just reopened under new ownership. There's not a ton of spots that I see kids gathering at other than at the shows themselves.

FOOD/DRINK: We are a very Waffle House/IHOP centered group even though the closest ones open late are across state lines in Mississippi haha. Central BBQ and Huey's are awesome. Otherlands and Java Cabana are the first two I think of when it comes to coffee shops, although I admittedly don't go often. Alex, guitar player for FUBAR, just opened a pastry/coffee shop called Naty's Pasteleria with his mom. Daguilty Vegan is awesome and we really want them to set up at some bigger shows in the next year.

LOCAL CREATIVES: PROMOTERS: DIY MEMPHIS (@diymemphis), Memphis Pestilence (@memphispestilence), Memphis Underworld (@memphisunderworld), Ian Younkinn

MEMPHIS, TN

DREW MILLER



ROSARY PHOTO: Giovanni Bravo Ruiz

(@lannyboyjones) **ARTISTS:** I make most of the fliers for DIY and have done a bunch of commissions for Pestilence as well. Pozzum (@pozzumdoll), Noah (@noahguffindesign), Jon (@doomed_user_) are all dope. **ZINES:** I just caught wind of this kid Grayson (@mxlk0.png) working on a digital zine called The Gray Area. **PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Alayna (@am.photo901), Marilyn (@meanmarilyn), Noah (@guffshoots), John (@southernpunkarchive), Gio (@gyiriii) **SCENE STATUS:** It fluctuates quite a bit but we've been slowly building back up over the past year or so. It's constantly evolving. We've blown through a lot of different DIY spaces and a lot of bands have come and gone recently. We have a really strong core group of promoters/photographers/musicians who work really, really hard to keep us going. There was a lot of crazy shit coming through pretty regularly before COVID, especially while Reserving Dirt naps were still active. I remember seeing Vein at a \$5 popup in 2019 and also seeing Sanction here for the first time around then, although it's easy to look back at shows like that in the context of the size that those bands are now and think that there hasn't been anything comparable since. In the last year, we've brought Snuffed on Sight, Fuming Mouth, Mugshot, Cell and HKFY through. There's a lot of exciting stuff going on and I feel so lucky to be such a big part of it.

DENVER, CO

ADAM CROFT

BRIEF HISTORY: Denver's always been an island because it's really hard to get here but as far back as the 80s there's been a punk scene. When the Denver economy sucked in the 80s and 90s it was an easier place for artists and freaks to do cool stuff than it is now because of gentrification. There's a comp called Capitol Hillbillies from the 80s that documents a lot of what was going in then in terms of punk and counterculture music in Denver generally. Dead Silence is probably most notable from that era and into the 90s as well as bands like Lepers, White Trash, and Frantix. Angel Hair are notable too. The 2000s bands like Negative Degree, Guns n Rosa Parts, Of Feather and Bone, Crooked Ways, and Fight Like Hell all toured and built up DIY punk and hardcore in their own way into the 2010s.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: See above for quite a few. My personal favorite all time Denver bands that aren't currently active would be Dead Silence, Civilized, Faim, Guns N Rosa Parks, Negative Degree, Born Dumb.

CURRENT BANDS: My favorite current band from Denver is the Consequence – Breakdown 87 influenced hc played by really talented guys. I think their LP is going to be an all timer for the region. In terms of HC and punk right now we have lots of great bands. Ukko's Hammer, Cadaver Dog, TimeXHeist, Wide Man, Candy Apple, Goon, Direct Threat, Moral Law, Polish, Sewerslide, Eyes of Salt. Public Opinion, American Culture, and Supreme Joy all play a style adjacent to hc and are fucking great. Colorado Springs has some cool bands too – RYBOMB, Mouth for War, Shit Eating Grin. I play in a band called Destiny Bond as well.

SHOW SPACES: Denver has two great DIY all ages spaces. One is called 7th Circle Music Collective and it's been around for a while. Volunteer run and my favorite venue in the world. The other is a newer spot called D3 Arts that's run by a nonprofit. They also do AA/NA meetings and community art events, it's a really great spot.

HANGOUTS: Coffee spots like Roostercat seem to be where a lot of kids go because their friends work there. The Crypt gets most of the 21+ crowd.

FOOD/DRINK: I'm vegan and have Celiac Disease so I'm not a great reference for spots but Gladys is my favorite vegan restaurant in the city – it's run by my friend Dave who plays in Of Feather and Bone. I'd also recommend Somebody People, Vinh Xuong's, Kahlos, Wellness Sushi, and The Spice Room to a vegan coming through town. Best coffee is Little Owl followed closely by Huckleberry and Crema.

RECORD STORES: Yeah Chain Reaction caters to hardcore/punk and metal and is my favorite store in the city. Wax Trax is cool and has a good selection of both. Twist and Shout has a good hc/punk selection but they go out of their way to not support local artists and kind of just cater to boomers buying record store day bullshit so I would encourage people to shop elsewhere.

LOCAL CREATIVES: I book a lot of shows as "Convulse Records Presents" – probably 3 a month or so. Gordy from the Consequence books a few gigs a year and they're always excellent. My homie Connor books shows as A World Apart and his shows are cool and Alex from Moral Law books a lot



CONSEQUENCE
PHOTO: JOE LACEY

of great hc as well. We have a few great photographers. Joe Lacey, Chon, Liana Shinbein, Jacki Vitteta. All great people that have invested in Denver hc and punk behind the camera and in front of it. Liana and my friend Anikin do a cool zine called Jolly Bones. Cain Cox, Preston Weippert, and Zach Reini, and Gordy Demeter all do cool visual art. Gordy's flyers have been a cut above for a long time.

SCENE STATUS: It's really good. Like I said we have two DIY venues so we're very lucky. Lots of new kid bands starting up as well which is a good sign for where things will be in the future and I think the current crop of bands is fucking stacked. Even though it's pretty rare for a Denver band to get on one of the bigger commercial fests and we're kind of isolated I would put bands like Direct Threat, The Consequence, and Sewerslide up against any of the bands crushing nationally right now even though people might not have caught on yet. We obviously had the post-pandemic boom that everyone else had in 2021 – shows that used to get 70 people out started selling out our 200 cap spots. Which was dope. Things are settling down a lot closer to what they used to be which is fine by me, there's still enough enthusiasm to make lots of shows happening sustainable for all parties involved. There's a steady cycle of new kids coming in to replace the kids that seem to be aging out of DIY hc and into sitting at bars which is to be expected.

PARTING THOUGHTS: Denver's hard to get to. You come from SLC, it's 8 hours. Same if you come from Kansas City or Omaha. So a lot of bands don't think it's worth it to come to this part of the country which is fucking whack to me. But that's fine, we'll keep doing cool shit and the coastal elites that whine about any drive over 4 hours can keep missing out. Love to all the touring bands that take the time to make it out here and prove that they're about it and not just on some big festival flyout easy mode shit. We see you and appreciate you taking the time. HC as a subculture would be healthier if more bands toured the middle of the country and played smaller towns on their way to a spot like Denver. Obviously lots of bands can't because they got kids or whatever – but I think we're getting to a place where certain people that live in the middle of the country feel like seeing the bands they love requires flying to some fest sponsored by PBR and that that matters more than building up and supporting a local scene. This shit is at its best when people ride for what's happening in their backyard the most, and work hard to bring bands they love to their community. I don't see that happening as much and as much as I'm down with the bigger fests I think they're partially to blame. Some people think HC is about destination fests and are only half engaged with what's happening next door.

BRIEF HISTORY: Technically, my region is NE Indiana, but you've put it upon me to speak for the whole state.

Punk/hardcore has a rich history in Indiana, but with few notable exceptions, not much of it has gotten a national spotlight. We've had stuff popping consistently from the late 70s through the current moment. This includes roots punk, first wave USHC, and just about everything that's come since.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: The most obvious answer is the Zero Boys from Indy, who are debatably a hardcore band, but definitely slotted into that early 80s hardcore scene. Before that, we had The Gizmos from Bloomington in the late 70s, who were on the Devo/outsider art punk tip. In the 2000s, we had Picked Clean, who put out a couple 7" EPs, including one on Six Feet Under. Phenomenal straight up hardcore punk. The 2010s gave us Social Damage, the best Straight Ahead worship of their era. Apart from that, we've also had bands like The Dream Is Dead, Coffinworm, Coneheads (although Northwest Indiana is kinda its own beast), and many more.

CURRENT BANDS: Bloomington has Full Stride, What Counts, and Velocity, who all share some members and have nearly single-handedly revitalized the scene down there. If you're playing in Bloomington, you're going through Chance and Betsy from that crew. Indianapolis has Youth In Asia, who just released something with Unlawful Assembly, Pat and the Pissers for the art punks, Struck who are playing straight up hardcore and I think are bringing a lot of new kids into the fold, and Senescence, who sadly just played their last show but were a major part of bringing in fresh faces over the last couple years. NEI has Piss Ant, who are on Upstate Records and just played the Rumble, Feticide, who play death metal and brush shoulders with that Maggot Stomp scene, and then I guess probably my band, Colossal Man, who plays NYHC inspired shit. Gary and NWI also have their own thing going on, but it intersects less frequently with the rest of the state, because it's damn near just the metro area of Chicago.

SHOW SPACES: Here in Fort Wayne, it's currently Slam City Skatepark. We've done a few shows there and have more coming up. There's also the Legion Hall in Waynedale where these kids Tommy and Tristan book a lot of the heavier hardcore stuff. I will also occasionally do a, let's call it "less than sanctioned", gig at a park pavilion.

Indianapolis has several spots, including a new church basement the Youth In Asia kids are booking, this DIY space Longshot, Black Circle Brewery, Healer, Atomic, and several others. They have no dearth of spaces. Bloomington is primarily doing shows in a spot called Rose's Midwest, which I've played a couple times and is great. And then I believe the Gary/NWI crew just got their hands on a new spot that they just did their second show at and may prove to be the de facto venue moving forward. There's also the Krishna Den and The Well in South Bend, which is sorta the no man's land between NEI and NWI, but has hosted some sick shows, including Spy last year.

FOOD/DRINK: I don't drink coffee, but I always take bands to Penny Drip in town, and they seem to like it. They have a phenomenal vegan breakfast sandwich, which I'm

INDIANA

GREY GORDON

eating as I write this. There's also Loving Cafe, which is run by a vegan Asian cult and is legendarily good. I dunno about the coffee scene in Indianapolis, but there are various vegan establishments. It's a city of 2 million people. There's plenty to choose from. Look it up. Bloomington has the Owlery, which is a vegan spot that's been around forever. They also have Chocolate Moose, which I've been getting vegan soft serve from for many years, far before that was a common occurrence. South Bend has Pinella, which is an all vegan Chinese food spot that I absolutely love.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Since I just mentioned him, Hunt is the guy to go to for all your printing needs and can also connect you with the people who book shows in Southern Indiana. The aforementioned Chance and Betsy book all the gigs worth attending in Bloomington. Scott Kilcoyne in Indy writes Mundane Moshers, which is one of the best zines going. He was also the man putting hardcore on his back in that city for many years, bringing through bands like Urban Blight, Weekend Nachos, Noose, etc. Currently, Brady from the band Rest Assured books under the moniker 317 shows, and he puts on hard for the city. The Youth In Asia kids are handling a lot of the stuff that falls more on the punk end of the spectrum. JS from Indianapolis also runs a YouTube channel called Elle 2.0 where he documents a staggering amount of shows on video. Here in Fort Wayne, Tristan and Tommy book the heavier hardcore stuff and the death metal stuff, for the most part, and I'm the guy to come to if your band sounds like Altercation or the Necros. I believe Heather handles a lot of what goes on in Evansville, but just like the NWI scene, Evansville is so far from the rest of the state that it kind of feels like a distinct scene. Speaking of which, I believe Oscar is the kid running most of what goes on in NWI.

SCENE STATUS: I think like most places, holistically, it's good. Attendance is up and shows are fun. That said, there does seem to be a dearth of new kids starting bands, at least here in Fort Wayne. I think there's a thing happening where new kids are not identifying as "hardcore kids" in the way that people used to. They're not taking it upon themselves to participate in the way that felt natural to me and my peers as kids. So that leaves us in a place where the shows are packed and fun, but feel less like the hardcore shows of years past, and more like some hybrid between a hardcore scene and a collection of clueless townies that just like heavy guitars.

PARTING WORDS: If you're in a band that's touring through the Midwest, don't skip Indiana. And if you're thinking of skipping the Midwest altogether, don't. Fort Wayne is a relative backwater, and I did a weeknight gig for Sinister Feeling and Kidnaped in April that sold out the venue. I played a show in Indy that sold out a 250 cap with nothing but regional bands on the bill. Shows are good here, but we need real deal hardcore bands to come through and help set an example for the new kids. I also just wanna see good bands 10 minutes from my house instead of having to drive three hours.

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CHICAGO, IL

ANCHIT CHHABRA

BRIEF HISTORY: Chicago Punk bands The Mentally Ill, The Luchs Brothers, The Exit, and Crucified all put out 7"s in the 1970s but no first wave Chicago Punk bands caught much attention outside the region. By 1981 with the birth of Hardcore this changed drastically. Chicago put its stamp on the burgeoning genre that can still be heard today with bands like Naked Raygun, The Effigies, and Articles of Faith who would all become canonized bands from the first wave of Hardcore. Some bands of this era were captured on the classic compilation *Busted At Oz*, a live album that was recorded at a Queer-owned historic gay bar named *Oz*, run by Dem Hopkins who put on Punk shows there from '78-'81. We should also mention Steve Albini and Big Black formed in 1981 and put out their first record in 1982 and Touch & Go moved from Michigan to Chicago in '87. In the late 80s, two important things formed on opposite sides of the spectrum: Screeching Weasel, one of the most important pop punk bands of all time, and Victory Records, which would become the biggest Hardcore label for the majority of the 1990s. In the 90s when Punk exploded into the mainstream, bands like The Bollweevils, 88 Fingers Louie, and Slapstick became national acts. Members of 88 Fingers Louie would go on to form Rise Against and members of Slapstick would go on to form Alkaline Trio and The Lawrence Arms. Los Crudos formed in 1991 and is considered one of the best and most important Hardcore Punk bands of all time. The Fireside Bowl started hosting Punk shows in 1994. Jim Grimes promoted a ton of Hardcore shows back in the day as Shane Merrill does today. To bring it to modern times, before The Killer the members were in bands such as Roundhouse, Synnecrosis and From The Chest. Before Harm's Way & Weekend Nachos those folks were in bands such as Convicted, Few & The Proud, etc. Before you have Thought Crusade, there was Expired Youth. As time goes on you have a new crop of kids such as myself... bands such as Chances R', No Zodiac, and Streets of Rage came into play. Warhound was shortly after that. Then boom. It's just even more younger kids starting new bands from there in the suburbs & in the city.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Articles of Faith, The Effigies, Naked Raygun, Big Black, Screeching Weasel, Life Sentence, Billingsgate (Evanston), Life Cycle/Even Score (Clarendon Hills), Los Crudos, The Bollweevils, 88 Fingers Louie, Charles Bronson (Dekalb), Pegboy, Few & The Proud, Expired Youth, Convicted, Thought Crusade, Warhound, No Zodiac.

CURRENT BANDS: Contempt, Conservative Military Image, Game of Death, Hold My Own, Sector, Kharma, Buggin. Members from Haywire and Torture also are from our scene.

SHOW SPACES: Beat Kitchen, Subterranean, Cobra Lounge...I did a Torture show at a taco spot recently and it popped off. I've seen a lot of shows happening there recently which is awesome. A lot of shows happening in random spots that only have one or two shows

because the calendar is absolutely fucked right now and there are shows left and right every day.

HANGOUTS: Most people hit up Dimo's for pizza after the gig or hit up the bar. Hit up Conti or EZ Inn if you want all of your dreams to die.

FOOD/DRINK: Get coffee at Metric, The Wormhole, Philz, Dayglow, or your local Dunkin Donuts. Get one of the best burgers in the world at Red Hot Ranch. Get an Italian Beef at Al's. Small Bar for some drinks and another great smash burger. Hit up Pequod's pizza if you want the tourist attraction pizza... I love it, but can only have it periodically.

RECORD STORES: Meteor Gem, Reckless Records

LOCAL CREATIVES: Shane Merrill is the #1 promoter for heavy music and hardcore in our area for many many years. Recently I've been doing a lot of hardcore shows here. Shane does The Rumble and he just had me join the team, so I'm excited to do that this coming year. A dope artist from Chicago goes by the name of No Pattern. He's been doing some cool shit... Check out Resonating Zine. Angie has been doing a cool fanzine for hardcore for awhile now. Props to her. Cool photographers from the area are Kyle Bergors and John Hambone. Kyle has been killing it and shooting hardcore a very solid amount of time now!

SCENE STATUS: It is without a doubt the best it has ever been. There's a lot of different styles of hardcore that come together. Promoters working together to come up with the best shows. Young bands left and right. New artists, new zine makers, new faces at shows. It's the best fucking thing. There are so many more younger bands now than there were 5 years ago. Shows sell out all the time compared to 5 years ago when we were struggling for 40 paid most of the time. Now it's not even a question. Kids are just eager to be a part of what's going on and it's awesome. We didn't have as much crossover in the "harder" scene vs. the more "fast" scene as we do now. There is much more unification on that front and it needs to happen even more. I think it could continue to be better than ever. As long as the people who do what they do, continue to do it and pass the torch to the young bucks doing their thing... hardcore will always be in a good place... and if it's not what it is now, who gives a fuck. Hardcore is still fun when it's just you and your friends singing along and beating the shit out of each other in a basement.

BOISE, ID

ALEX MARSHALL

BRIEF HISTORY: There were some really cool bands from Boise back in the 80's like State of Confusion and Septic Death, but I started going to shows about 13 years ago. At the time, the scene was pretty small. Most bands/tours would skip Boise, and there were only a handful of local HC bands, most of which weren't active or touring. There was one main guy who was booking shows in Boise for a while, and when he left, my friends and I started booking shows. Obviously COVID took things out for a while, but like many



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other HC scenes, we saw a huge boom of younger kids going to shows after the fact. Bands like Ingrown, Rejection Pact, and Witness Chamber touring made Boise a force to be reckoned with. Now we have younger bands like Stomp, Wasted, Vulsella, and Flail that are the next generation of Boise HC bands.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Septic Death, State of Confusion (Ross from Ingrown's dad played drums), Brawl (Charlie from Ingrown played in this, he's gonna be so mad I mentioned it), State of Suffering (Witness Chamber Predecessor), Grocery List, HeadxLock.

CURRENT BANDS: Ingrown, Witness Chamber, Rejection Pact, All That Matters, Stomp
SHOW SPACES: The Shredder, Shrine Social Club. RIP the Venue and Android House.

FOOD/DRINK: If you don't buy Little Devil Vegan Meats, you are my enemy. Best vegan salami and bacon you'll ever have. Dharma, Big Bun, Golden Wok, BBQ4LIFE are all bomb vegan spots. I like Push and Pour for coffee, a lot of people like Flying M.

RECORD STORES: Record Exchange, Rollin' Records, Modern Sounds Vinyl. Shout out Rollin' for comin' in clutch recently and letting us do a last minute show there.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Photographers: Caden Bostic (now SEA based), Adam Wright, Cdigi, Alex Hecht. Zine Makers: Alex Hecht and Caden Bostic (Forged in the 208) Promoters: I do Boise Hardcore Booking/Underdogs, but shout out Angus Booked It promotions. If you need a show, one of these got you.

SCENE STATUS: Boise has seen the most incredible increase in people coming to shows. I'm excited to see the younger kids coming into the scene and experiencing something that has been such a massive part of my life. Most of the younger kids are very into the beatdown/slam side of HC that's very popular right now, but there's a few kids I've talked to that are listening to true blue HC bands. Like many other scenes across the country right now, there's a lot of kids who might not be going to shows for the right reasons or have the same love for HC that I did growing up, but they will fade out and the kids that care will stick around and continue to keep Boise on top. 5 years ago, 60 people at a show was a dream come true. There were 4 or 5 local hardcore bands and it was the same 8 or 9 people mixed up in all of them (myself included). Now - shows sell out left and right, there's tons of new bands with tons of new faces, and I can see a community fostering with the newer generation that I believe will last a long time.

I think in the next year or two, Boise will see a lot of kids fade out due to moving away, starting college, or just finding other things. But there's a solid core group of younger kids that I can see sticking around for a while and making some cool bands, putting on cool shows, and bringing in a new wave of hardcore kids into shows after the others are gone. I've already passed the torch of booking mostly to other people (shoutout Avery and Sam), so it's safe to say Boise is in good hands.

BRIEF HISTORY: Louisville is a river city and growing up the music scene had a specific sound that was always sort of "other" to what was happening in capital H hardcore. I used to always hear (mostly from people not from here) that there must be something in the water. Hardcore and punk in Louisville goes back far with bands like Squirrel Bait in the 80's and that is where I pinpoint the sonic identity that predated me coming from. This is why I have always thought of Louisville as an extension of what DC hardcore was. Everything here was maybe a little more thoughtful I would say or possibly artsy fartsy depending on who you ask. We were definitely a more PC city and far less violent than we are now but I like to think the intellectual curiosities and struggles for betterment are still in the conversation here and I hope that tradition carries on. We have big feelings around here.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Slint, Kinghorse, Endpoint, By the Grace of God, Falling Forward, Elliot, National Acrobat, and Automatic are the ones that I hold dear or if I don't I still feel the need to acknowledge

CURRENT BANDS: Two Witnesses, Gates To Hell, Knocked Loose, Inclination, Basic Needs, Surfaced, Walk Alone, Enemy Lines, Weapon X and I apologize to anyone I'm forgetting

SHOW SPACES: Spinelli's, Portal, Magbar

FOOD/DRINK: Vietnam Kitchen is the classic.

Logan Street Market has some spots. Parlor pizza, Smoothie King, McDonalds and I hate coffee but people seem to like Sunergos but I know they are like freaky Christians

RECORD STORES: Ear-X-tacy, Guestroom

LOCAL CREATIVES: Ryan Patterson, Neriah Romero, Alex Rhema, Isaac Hale, Ryan Storey, Errick Easterday, Max Moore, Dylan Chadwick aka DrugDogs, and my girlfriend Ashton

LOUISVILLE, KY

TYLER SHORT

SCENE STATUS: We are currently ebbing and flowing. We were on an astronomical high post covid and we still get there with some gigs exceeding all expectations but things seem to have mellowed out a bit. We enjoy the Knocked Loose bump from time to time and some of those recruits do stick around. There have been these moments over the years when it is dark and things are looking grim where the same 20-30 kids are still showing up week after week and engaging in this thing we all love and it regularly makes me emotional. Right now I think we have that with 50-60 people which means that even at its darkest we are still doing alright. One thing I love so much about Louisville is that of those who remain from all subsequent generations, everyone present cares to be here and feels lucky to still get to be a part of this incredibly special thing.



INCLINATION PHOTO: KEVIN O'BRYAN



DETROIT, MI

JAMES LAWSON

BRIEF HISTORY: In Detroit, punk started in the mid 70's and became one of the best scenes in the country by the early 80s. Detroit has had so many notable "rock" bands, that it

developed its own underground scene and quickly became known as "Detroit Rock City". We had bands like The Stooges, MC5, Alice Cooper, DEATH (punk), and many others start paving the way for younger kids of that era to start opening their eyes and figuring out what hardcore could become in Detroit.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Detroit has so many notable bands, but to me, the most important are Negative Approach. With Touch and Go Records being so close to home, we can give honorary Detroit status to a couple other bands like the Necros and the Meatmen. If you fast forward a bit, you get bands like Cold As Life, Earthmover, Walls of Jericho, Face Reality and Freedom.

CURRENT BANDS: Never Ending Game, D Bloc, Bad Beat, Big Deal and Suffer No Fools.

SHOW SPACES: Edgemen Printing, Gatekeepers, Voodoo House, The Sanctuary and Parts & Labor.

FOOD/DRINK: For food, all the out of towners love getting Detroit Style Pizza. We have too many killer restaurants here that are loved. Tons of Vegan / Veggie friendly spots. New Order

Coffee is my favorite cup around town. Highly GOATED in my opinion.

RECORD STORES: Found Sound Records (Ferndale), Village Vinyl (Warren), UHF Records (Royal Oak), Jack's Record Stache (Flint)

LOCAL CREATIVES: Tied Down Detroit – Hardcore Show Promoters

Too many photographers to name – but look at the @tieddowndetroit Instagram and you can see some insane photos.

SCENE STATUS: Currently hardcore is thriving here in Detroit. A "small show" has grown from the past being 10-20 people, to now being a minimum of 50-60 people. There is a great sense of community and the Detroit scene is stronger than ever. Five years ago (pre covid) the scene was still strong. I think that giving up shows for essentially the year of 2020 made everyone realize how special Detroit is. It really became something prominent in the last few years.

It seems to be growing and growing. I hope that it can grow, but not be oversaturated by kids who don't want to stick around.



NEVER ENDING GAME PHOTO:
DANIELLE WASYLENKO



COLUMBUS, OH

NATE SNITCHLER



FLYER: ILIJA NECOVSKI

PHOTO: JOSH BROWN



BRIEF HISTORY: I'm not a Columbus native - lived here since 2015 - but I think historically, Columbus was known for a lot of heavy hardcore/beatdown adjacent music. There's still plenty of that (current active vanguards like Violent Nature and 2 AM Headshots, and previously Sawmill and Life of Crime (RIP)), but in recent memory a big wave of more overtly punk leaning hardcore has become the style I see cropping up most often, which was underrepresented in the past, at least at the shows I was going to. Columbus is probably best described as if an entire scene were a mixed bill. I don't know that there's any underlying regional sound beyond doing whatever the fuck you want to do. I'm sure someone more interested in the past could correct me, but that's how I see it from where I'm at.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Minority Threat, Empire of Rats, Vile Gash, and Bonehead. Also, Pitboss 2k is from Columbus, do with that what you will.

CURRENT BANDS: En Love, Rejoice, SOUR, Violent Nature, Aubrey, Circus, Lexan, Salt, Crime Light, 2 AM Headshots.

SHOW SPACES: Dirty Dungarees is the notable local spot for hardcore, there's also a bar called Cafe Bourbon Street that lets us throw DIY shows in town and a house show spot called Marlboro Manor, although they may have lost their lease and stopped throwing shows by now. Everything else in town is too big or doesn't do all ages shows.

FOOD/DRINK: Vegan food at Seitan's Realm, coffee at Parable

RECORD STORES: Used Kids Records

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters: Columbus Hardcore (@columbushardcore on IG), Collyde Records (@collydeshows on IG), Truth in Action (@truthinaction614 on IG)

Artists: Ilija Necovski (@ilijanecovski on IG) and Jack Omori (@omori_so_icy on IG)

Zine Makers: Mandate of Hardcore (@mandate_of_hardcore on IG) and Knuckle Draggor 614 (@614knuckledraggor on IG) Photographers: Josh Brown (@thedumbpunk on IG) and Kristen Necovski (@kristenecovski on IG)

SCENE STATUS: Punk and hardcore are as popular in Columbus as they've ever been, I think. Is that good? Maybe. The local scene reached critical mass on new blood within the last two years and is now experiencing an influx of tourists who want to make a thing in their image rather than actually trying to participate in a thing that already exists, although the new kids who are about it have taken it upon themselves to make tourists feel a little less welcome than they used to. Pre-Covid, Columbus HC was in a drought that could have killed the scene in its entirety. Thankfully, we've recovered from that. I'd like to believe it's being set up to sustain itself indefinitely. I have high hopes for it and I think it'll still be flourishing, and I bet the ratio of real deal to tourists swings in a much more positive direction.

BRIEF HISTORY: Long Island always had a strong scene but was very disconnected from NYC scene wise for a long time (at least that's what the old heads tell me). Obviously VOD would play out there, as well Silent Majority/KYI/Neglect etc but Long Island was kind of its own bubble. Some band's from LI would draw hundreds of people here and then go play Philly to 30 people. I always loved the fact how hard Long Island rode for our bands, past and present. Since then LI has definitely broke that bubble, in my opinion really starting with Backtrack. I genuinely believe they united the NYC-LI pipeline and even convinced the touring bands of my generation to play LI instead of the city area

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Crumbsuckers, Neglect, Silent Majority, Kill Your Idols, Mind Over Matter, Vision of Disorder, Inside, Milhouse, Big Sniff, Capital, Crime In Stereo, The Movielife, Glassjaw, Backtrack, Jukai, This Is Hell, Heads vs Breakers, The Agent, Skycamefalling, On The Might of Princes, Sons of Abraham, Tripface, Overthrow, Subterfuge, Urban Waste, Nihilistics, Two Man Advantage

CURRENT BANDS: Incendiary, King Nine, Pain of Truth, Koyo, Stand Still, Private Mind, Somerset Thrower, Sanction, Final Resting Place (I count them), Last Laugh, Life Taken, NYC Shootout, Liberate, Submerge, The Stress, Blood Runs Cold, Comeuppance, Silenus, Lethal, Extinction AD, Carcosa, Stabbed, Victory Garden, Regulate, Heavy Hex, Heads Will Roll, Become One, The Great Lie, Dead Last

SHOW SPACES: I mean AMH is for sure the homebase and that's not even me trying to be biased. I would say second in command is the Massapequa VFW, followed by Sand City, Shakers, Long Beach Brewery, and FROGGZ

FOOD/DRINK: Coffee isn't straight edge so I can't really comment on the matter but a lot of edge breakers seem to like Southdown, Druthers, and some other gentrified looking spots. Three Brothers is THE vegan spot - great italian food. Another old school vegan joint is The Witches Brew. If you're coming to LI you have to get Little Vincent's pizza with some cold cheese. All American for the meat eaters. Mike's Underground Pizza is a pizza place you legit need to order on the phone and meet the guy at a gazebo. Hardcore owned restaurants / bars that people frequent as well Vauxhall, Ruby Soho's, Leaky Lifeboat. If you want the true Long Island experience after a show you go to the nearest diner, as long as it isn't the massapequa diner

LOCAL CREATIVES: If I forget you I'm sorry. **PROMOTERS:** Myself, Michael Nothing Strong, Jimmy LCOD Productions, Nate Bad Idea Collective, Lina Bored Friends, Anthony da Hardknock, Mike Varley, Jon Golden Hour, Mat Golden Hour, Joey Fifty First, The Gooned Up Nerds, Cross Island Connect, Ed Become One, Christian Mcknight, Anthony Race, Toons, Those who ran the PWAC and Local 7.

ARTISTS: Jon Gusman, Anthony Bis, 90's Anthony, Anthony Manaro, Sal Manaro, Stephan Stand Still, Lil D, and many more.

ZINE MAKERS: Jon Gusman, Dave Fox, make more zines cause I wish I had more than two names to put here - I guess you can include Chris Wynne technically cause he's the Greatest of all time.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Rebecca Lader, Johnny Milano, Pam Piffard, Steve Levy, Vic, Matt Viel, Michael Dubin

SCENE STATUS: Legit amazing, local shows doing better than ever. Very unified, no bullshit, everyone looking out for each other. I feel like LI has luckily been strong for the past few years. I think there's more young people than ever which is great. They're all starting bands and starting to book shows.

INSIDE PHOTO:
Steve Levy



LONG ISLAND, NY

JOHN SCANLON

CRIMBORGES DE GUERRA PRESENTA:

LIVE FORCE

(DALLAS STRAIGHT EDGE -
NEW AGE RECORDS)

RETAIN
(DRESDEN STRAIGHT EDGE)

DEFURZEN
(MADRID STRAIGHT EDGE -
QUALITY CONTROL)

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VERBIZIA**
MADRID HARDCORE

TOLO ALIAS
ANDORRA HARDCORE

20 DE MARZO

C/ DE JOSEFA DIAZ, 4. 28038 MADRID

PRECIO 10€

19:30

PRIMERA LINEA

TRINCHERO

MADRID, SPAIN

MEMPHIS, TN

SYRACUSE, NY

DIY MEMPHIS X MEMPHIS PESTILENCE

CRIPPLED ON HIGH

ROBBERY

WESLEY CONTROL

FUBAR

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SATURDAY JUNE 8TH, 2024

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54

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CONTROL Present:

MINDWAR HIGH VIS SPARK CHAIN REACTION WEIGHT FORCE ECHO CHAMBER

Saturday
03/12/2022
KAVKA
Antwerp
Belgium

Doors: 4PM
First band: 5PM
Damage: 15 ADV / 18

Hardcore Trade Market

BRIEF HISTORY: Everyone knows NYHC history. But if you somehow dont know these things, you can start with Agnostic Front, Bad Brains, The Stimulators, Kraut, Cause for Alarm, Cro Mags, the venues CBGBs, A7 and work from there...

NOTABLE OG BANDS: See above...but my personal favorites: Killing Time, Sick of it All, DYNAMO, Cro Mags, Madball, Breakdown, Crown of Thornz to name a few....

CURRENT BANDS: I unfortunately have to be bias with this list cause I'm in a few BUT these are the current bands comin out of NYC!! Top Dollar, Genome, Bazooka, Lethal, Combust, Beg To Differ, Steamroll, Born Sinner. If I missed any you let me know.

SHOW SPACES: Imma break this down by venue capacity smaller to bigger: Broadway, Bar Freda, Bootleg Bar, Niagara Bar (A7), Trans Pecos, Gold Sounds, Kingsland (maybe?), Tv eye, Meadows, Monarch. There's probably more...

HANGOUTS: Ha.....in Brooklyn? Probably some corny coffee shop or some cracked out wack ass bar. Me and my friends be playin ping pong and eating dope sandwiches tho.

FOOD/DRINK:

Brooklyn: Defontes, Difara, Ferdnandos, Emily's Porkstore, Brennan and Carr, Mazzollas

Manhattan: Johns on Bleecker, Scarrs, Wo Hop (yea it's tourist but it's epic), 7th street burger, American burger, Lil Frankie's, Ferraras, Parisi Bakery, 456 New Shanghai

Queens: Dani's house of pizza, New Park, "Citi Field sausage and pepper sandwich"- Harry Corrigan

Staten island (if you find yourself here): Filoncino, Montalbanos, nonnas, deninos, dough, Patrizias, Ralph's Ice, Royal Crown, Vinum, basilio inn, Duffys

RECORD STORES: Generation records, Limited to one, Material World, Vinyl fantasy. There's definitely gotta be more. I haven't been up on my records game in a long time.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters: Scanlon, Core Clientele, Saint Vitus Presents. Zine Makers: Core Clientele. I'll put Streets of Hate in there. There's simply too many photographers but shout out Carl Gunhouse.

SCENE STATUS: I'd say it's really dope. We have a lot of kids rollin out. The shows are sick. More younger kids starting bands. People really care. 5 years ago looked a little bleak compared to this. Kids were still comin but the vibe was just different. I mean definitely less transplants. (Still transplants) but less. Like I said more bands now which is sick. There was a time when the only local nyc band was Combust haha.

Hopefully it stays like it is with all these kids booking shows and helping out and doing bands and caring.

NYC, NY

ANDREW VACANTE



COMBUST PHOTO: RAY MOCK

BRIEF HISTORY: New York City has been an epic punk and hardcore mecca since day one and perhaps continues to be so. A7...CBs.....you fucks weren't there (me either)...ABC No Rio...fast forward...uhh...538 Johnson...Bootleg Bar?? A7 is back but under a different name.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Way too many to list if we're talking classic bands. New York Thrash Comp.... Where the Wild Things Are... Pretty much everything that happened in New York in the 80s was goated and most people are aware of it at this point. Within the last twentyish years, Perdition was a personal favorite. Ajax. Crazy Spirit.

CURRENT BANDS: Mirage, Cross, 80HD, No Knock, Top Dollar, Secretors, Who Pays, Abism. I refuse to dick ride so I'm going to stop there. Warthog, Haram, Hank Wood, Lotion and all of those other bands are still doing it also.

SHOW SPACES: Parks in the middle of the day, maybe on the street in an industrial area. Abandoned buildings sometimes. TV Eye. The Broadway. Bootleg Bar fell off and left a gaping wound we are all healing from.

HANGOUTS: Variety Coffee maybe. Whatever bar somebody's friend is working at that night. Anchored Inn if it's sunday night. Punk Alley. Selva. I can't go more than two minutes existing in Maria Hernandez without running into somebody I know.

EAT/DRINK: The Chili's in Glendale. Mano's pizza, l'industrie, Luigi's, the OG Difara in midwood (people say it's bad now but they're trying to be contrarian). There's a lot of bad food out here to be honest. I usually cook for myself or go to a bodega. Ras Ethiopian. A&A Bake and Doubles and Roti in Bed Stuy is pretty awesome and cheap. I'm still on the hunt for a greek place in north brooklyn that doesn't suck. I'm not vegan and will almost only ever eat that stuff if somebody is forcing me, but JJ's is actually quite good and located in the drift which is also a spot people drink at. I don't like Variety coffee

NYC, NY

QUINN/LETHAL

that much but everybody goes there because they are sheep. Honeymoon is really good but I live nowhere near it so I don't go there ever. Partners is good. Drive to long island and get Southdown. Drink alcohol wherever the homie is bartending that night or you will wind up spending your entire paycheck. Coyote Club happy hour has two dollar bud lite drafts and is usually not an annoying place to hang out during those hours. I wasn't going to blow this up but I would rather see punk and hardcore kids hanging out there than the shitty art directors or whatever that started coming in the last couple of years.

RECORD STORES: Generation, material world, academy, rebel rouser.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Seamus

SCENE STATUS: Within the past year everybody here has become obsessed with crust for some reason.... that's all I'll say about that. A lot of young kids are at the more DIY shows which is cool. The way New York makes it hard to do stuff anywhere that isn't a bar and I don't have the fortitude to set up a generator show so respect to the people doing it and keeping all ages shows going. Overall the scene is alive and well 'thumbs up emoji' I noticed a big vibe shift at shows after covid but in a good way. Kids mosh and stage dive way more now which is cool. I think the newer transplants brought that with them. Thanks guys. I have distinct memories of people getting really butthurt at moshers before this. The punk scene here post covid was lit as hell. It's still pretty lit, but maybe not to the same level. That first year or two is a blur to me though and I'm assuming is a blur to a lot of people which is probably why everybody's getting sober now.



SYRACUSE, NY

LUKAS REED

BRIEF HISTORY: Syracuse Hardcore is a long, tenured history of ebbs and flows. Most people would agree that the hardcore scene here began in the early 1980s when a tight-knit crew of punkers started emulating what was happening in cities like New York and DC. Bands like THE CATATONICS and MILTON'S DISCIPLES barely made it out of the upstate bubble, but the community that they helped start in Syracuse was strong. Most of the 1st wave Syracuse bands didn't make it to the end of the 80s, but a new crew of kids raised on Revelation Records and Slayer were about to make waves with their new band. EARTH CRISIS may have started humbly enough, but their brand of vegan straight edge struck a chord early on, and by the release of "Firestorm" in 1993, they changed the landscape of hardcore altogether. Bands from all over the world wanted to play the Lost Horizon, and as broadcast news channels ventured out here and brought the message of vegan straight edge to the masses, the scene became the biggest it ever was - culminating in the Syracuse Super Fest (later renamed to Hellfest) which arguably laid the groundwork for the modern hardcore festival, and, at its peak, brought thousands of people to the Salt City. By the turn of the millennium, however, things were starting to change. EC breaks up in 2001. Local favorites ANOTHER VICTIM become THE PROMISE and subsequently hit the road for months on end. Hellfest moves to New Jersey. There's a massive void left in the local scene, and it would be the punkers who would end up saving it. Assault City Hardcore (often abbreviated as ACHC) served as the complete antithesis to the trends of the mid-2000's. Bands like BLACK SHEEP SQUADRON, ATTITUDE, and HIT THE LIGHTS played fast, stood up against violence, and stood for DIY in every sense. Rather than booking 21+ gigs at clubs, they were booking all ages shows at Westcott Community Center. Rather than waiting for companies to put out their bands, they started their own labels and released records themselves. By no means was Syracuse as big as it had been in the 90s, but the community that was there was all in. With momentum built up from a strong local scene, Syracuse hit the 2010s running. REAPER RECORDS (one of the aforementioned DIY labels started during the ACHC era) was hitting their stride, and with releases from TRAPPED UNDER ICE, TURNSTILE, BACKTRACK, and NAYSAYER under their belt, Syracuse once again played it's hand in changing the landscape of hardcore altogether. Bands from all over the country wanted to play here again, and local acts like TOLERATE, THE STORM, and HUNTED DOWN became staples. But after the closure of DIY spaces like Badlands and the loss of the Westcott Community Center around 2014, things were at an all-time low. It wasn't until TRAIL OF LIES revamped in 2016 that it felt like there was anything happening in Syracuse again, but still the local scene was still small. Through consistent gigs at Spark Art Space and The Warehouse in the late 2010s, however, a new crop of kids were able to pick up the pieces and help Syracuse thrive going into the 2020s.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Earth Crisis, Path of Resistance, Trail of Lies, The Promise, Another Victim, Black Sheep Squadron, Forfeit, Attitude

CURRENT BANDS: All 4 All, Deal With God, Street Hassle, Azshara, X-Threat, Urban Camouflage

SHOW SPACES: SILVER STREET EVENT CENTER, THE SONG & DANCE, THE NIGHT DROP.

FOOD/DRINK: ALTO CINCO, STRONG HEARTS, DINOSAUR BBQ, PASTABILITIES, KEY PIZZA for food. AL'S, THE BLARNEY STONE, LIMERICK for drinks. RECESS, SALT CITY MARKET for coffee. STRONG HEARTS is THE vegan cafe for upstate New York. Owned and operated by former coremen, they've got something for every appetite. Big fan of the Thai Tofu Salad. But if you're specifically looking for breakfast, NICE BISCUIT has the best vegan breakfast sandwiches I've ever had. Can't go wrong with The Wrangler.

RECORD STORES: SOUND GARDEN

LOCAL CREATIVES: DJ Rose - Artist (Halo Tattoo), Guav - Designer (Cabal), Mike Tommyrot - Artist (Halo Tattoo), Elsa Propper - Artist/Photographer, Karalyn Hope - Photographer

SCENE STATUS: Young and thriving! The future is unwritten - it's up to these new kids to pick up the pen!

ALL 4 ALL PHOTO: SPENCER CHAMBERLAIN



BRIEF HISTORY: Albany and its surrounding areas have a pretty old hardcore scene. The first Albany Style compilation came out in the late 80s, which had bands like Cranial Abuse (pre Stigmata) and NY Wolfpack (Steve Reddy of Equal Vision Records). To my knowledge, this era of Albany was had a ton of shows in all age's spots and hall rentals (VFWs, American legions etc). Troy, NY, is famous for its era of "Troy-Core" bands in the 90s. Stigmata, Dying Breed, Withstand, Flat Broke, Politics of a Contraband and War-Time Manner are the most famous, but there is a slew of others. All of this is well before my time, but I'm sure everyone knows of the QE2 videos. One King Down, Stigmata etc. And there are plenty of smaller bands/shows that happened in all of the venues in the late 90s and 2000s (notable venues: Valentines, Trinity Church, The New Age Cabaret, Bogies and The Fuze Box, ignoring random DIY spots that is, but they were always kind of short lives).

NOTABLE OG BANDS: One King Down, Stigmata, Dying Breed, Skinless.

CURRENT BANDS: The biggest band that is originally from Albany is Drug Church, Spiritkiller, Cold Kiss, Grand Street, Wet Specimens, Prize, Halo Bite, Carnwennan, Sunbloc, Cinnamon, Stutter, Enemies at all Times, Impact Statement, Bad Impressions, Horse Grave, Gateway, and Schenectavoids.

SHOW SPACES: The Fuze Box (old QE2), No Fun, El Dorado, Son of Egg, The Cohoes Connect Center, Empire Live/Underground.

EAT/DRINK: Coffee everyone raves about Jacob Alejandro in Troy, but I don't drink coffee because I am a psycho. As far as food goes, Herbies Burgers is a popular spot right now, especially after a show since they're open late and have vegan/veg options. For regular hours vegan, Wizard Burger. I am not vegan but I know a lot of people make this spot a stop if they're passing through. Bitchin' Donuts on Lark Street has some of the best donuts, all vegan, and taste better than any non-vegan donut I've ever had. DeFazio's Pizza - top tier pizza - also with Vegan Options. It's kind of in the middle of the Hudson Valley and Albany, but only an hour away from Albany is Tommy B's Slice Shop (Aaron of Death Threat's spot). Get the Sicilian.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Crisis Isolation, ALBHC (myself), Empire Live/Upstate Black and Blue are the people booking predominantly hardcore/punk and metal shows in Albany.

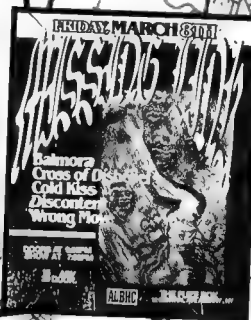
Super Dark Collective does a lot of adjacent stuff as well and occasionally has some hardcore bands too. There is also a separate DIY/House show scene that is done by CZR

Entertainment and Sanctum productions, but it's rare they do an exclusive hardcore/punk show.

SCENE STATUS: I think it is very much on the rise. Albany seems to always lag behind other scenes a bit. As other areas do better, Albany is slow to follow but eventually does. There are some new bands that are in the process of writing/recording, and lots of new/young kids coming to shows, which is a sure sign that the scene will continue to grow. 5 years ago, seems like an eternity when you factor the pandemic into things, but in my 20ish years being involved in the hardcore scene in Albany, this seems to be the best it's ever been. Myself and the guitarist of Grand Street just put together the third installment of the Albany Style Compilation that just went on streaming. All the bands have physical copies and a release show is planned for January 2025.

ALBANY, NY

ADAM MERENDINO



BRIEF HISTORY: Hardcore has existed in the Hudson valley since the mid-80s or earlier, but it really got its name in the 90s with bands such as All Out War, Dissolve, Eye 2 Eye.. the list goes on. At that time the "Hudson Valley" sound was established as a darker, metallic brand of hardcore. I think that particular style sticks with us to this day.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: All Out War, Dissolve, Inner Dam, Beneath The Remains, End Of One, Atlas Shrugged, Drowning Room, Colony
CURRENT BANDS: Mindforce!! Age Of Apocalypse, Godskin Peeler, Gigan Animal Thugs, Cross Of Disbelief, Fatal Realm

SHOW SPACES: Currently we have Quinzz Pinz, which is a sidebar at a bowling alley in Middletown, NY. We also have Reason & Ruckus which is a bar in the city of Poughkeepsie. Those are the two main spots at the moment.

HANGOUTS: Big Mouth Coffee Roasters & Rossi's Deli...

FOOD/DRINK: Big Mouth Coffee Roasters (COFFEE). Quinns Restaurant in Beacon, NY or Hudson & Packard Detroit Style pizza in Poughkeepsie, NY. **VEG FOOD:** The two listed above are some of my favorites that have vegan options. There's also an all-vegan donut shop called Peaceful Provisions, and a breakfast joint called Kitchen & Coffee that is fully vegetarian, with some great vegan options.

LOCAL CREATIVES: **PROMOTERS:** Lou Dibella from Subzero, Juan Rhythmden, Glacial Productions : my big brother Jay & others. **Outsider Magazine:** Zine maker & local Show booker. When I started going to local shows in around 2006 they were all booked by Holly from Outsider Magazine. Brown Table & HeavyHV are putting in work. **GRAFFITI:** SAG, MUK123, Havek & Hest FTV.. CYC crew. **EVAK IMOK. CENT HD..** there are

more but those are my favorites and most up. **TATTOOS:** Thom Devita lived in Newburgh NY, rest in peace! Never met him but he's a legend and I love him. Larry Davis, amazing tattooer that's been at it since the 80s and still pushes boundaries and does impressive work. **Zine Makers:** Hellbender Fanzine & Vista Fanzine..90s gold.

PHOTOS: Danielle Dembroski - been at it a long time and still at more shows than most kids 20 years younger.. she took a photo of a big crew of people at the 100 Demons 1st LP record release show that should be framed in the northeast hardcore hall of fame one day.

SCENE STATUS: It's on an upswing. There's multiple promoters doing shows here and there's always something to do. We have so many Fuckin bands too and they're pretty good (mostly).

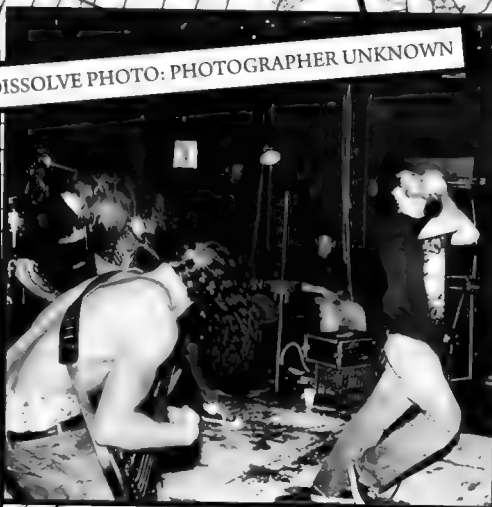
HUDSON VALLEY, NY

ALEX CASEY

PARTING WORDS: Style Dominates Sound



DISSOLVE PHOTO: PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN



BUFFALO, NY

EVAN DUCKETT

BRIEF HISTORY: Buffalo has always been an unsung hero in the Northeast/Eastern USA/whatever you want to call it. It's never been the biggest scene in America, but it's always got influential stuff going on that extends nationwide/worldwide. A handful of iconic venues over the years like the River Rock Cafe that hosted Youth of Today, Judge, etc, Amvets Post 13 for both HC punk in the late 80s and heavy hardcore in the mid 2000s and the Funeral Home where seemingly everybody played- Title Fight, Earth Crisis, Cold World, Bane, Trapped Under Ice, pretty much any hardcore and adjacent band you wanted to see from 2010-2013 played there.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Foundational stuff like the early punk years of Goo Goo Dolls, Zero Tolerance, Slugfest/Despair/Buried Alive, Snapcase, and some of the groundwork for blueprint death metal like Cannibal Corpse, Malevolent Creation, and Baphomet, 2000s metalcore and metallic hardcore in Every Time I Die, Kid Gorgeous, It Dies Today, Rhinoceros into a wave of bands like Malfunktion and beyond. At any given moment Buffalo has always had a handful of bands touring hard, with a scene of great locals backing them.

CURRENT BANDS: Violent Way, Spaced, Exhibition, Final Declaration, Bad Blood, Fatal Visions, Autoignition, Pure Heel, Big Dog, Do Crime, Hold Out, Science Man, Juggernaut, Selfish Act, K-Hole, Monomaniac.

SHOW SPACES: There's a handful of very off the grid DIY spots, Rec Room for bigger shows, the legendary Mohawk Place, Amy's Place (a long running vegetarian diner that's started hosting shows) and we recently got back into Amvets Post 13 after 15 years of no shows there- the perfect VFW hall type deal for hardcore shows where I basically grew up going to watch Rhinoceros play with bands like Reign Supreme, The Mongoloids, Wisdom in Chains, etc.

FOOD/DRINK: Chicken wings are obviously a big thing here, Nine-Eleven Tavern, Adolf's Old First Ward Tavern, Kelly's Korner and Bar-Bill reign supreme. Some great coffee spots like Overwinter, Public Espresso and Remedy House. You can also find pretty much any type of ethnic cuisine you could possibly want, Buffalo is such a melting pot of immigrants. You craving Sudanese street food? We have it, legitimately.

For vegan/vegetarian specific, Amy's Place, Sunshine Vegan Eats, Strong Hearts (Buffalo outpost of the Syracuse legends) are all great.

RECORD STORES: Out There Records and Black Dots are the two big ones.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoting currently, aside from myself, Nick Violent Way, Lexi and Donny Spaced, Brett Exhibition, Ruben Birdy Productions all put stuff on. There's also a syndicate of younger kids called GAGS (Get A Grip Studios) doing their thing. We've got some great photographers here like the

legendary Mark Miller who has photographed probably every hardcore band you've ever heard of since the 90s, and Ethan Barnes who also plays in Fatal Visions.

SCENE STATUS: Thriving. Every show is good. Buffalo went through a lull after the Funeral Home shut down. Without a consistent DIY space stuff dried up for a minute and we sort of skipped a generation of kids I think. Now post-covid with this renewed energy we're seeing everywhere, Buffalo is also booming. We're not going anywhere. Buffalo will always be Buffalo.

**BUFFALO HARDCORE IS BACK AT
AMVETS POST 13
25 REVIEW PLACE BUFFALO NY 14207**

**8.12 HOLD MY OWN
ENDS OF SANITY
7PM \$20 BAYWAY WITH GUESTS SET
- DEEP KISSERS**

**8.24 CLIQUE • GOLD KISS
TERMINATOR
7PM \$15 MONOMANIAC**

**9.02 SIMULAKRA
HEADRUSSA • WORST DOWNT
7PM \$20 DISCONTENT • FATAL VISIONS**



BAD BLOOD PHOTO: ETHAN BARNES

BRIEF HISTORY: Not to be cocky, but I don't think it's a secret that Boston has one of the most storied punk/hardcore scenes in the world. In short, from the X-Claim bands in the early 80's, to the more modern day bands like Boston Strangler, No Tolerance and The Rival Mob.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: 1970's: DMZ, Nervous Eaters, The Real Kids, La Peste 1980's: DYS, Jerry's Kids, SSD, FU's, Slapshot 1990's: Wrecking Crew, Ten Yard Fight, Sam Black Church, Blood for Blood, Dropkick Murphys 2000's: Mental, Righteous Jams, Stop and Think, American Nightmare, Have Heart 2010's: Bloodkrow Butcher, The Rival Mob, Boston Strangler, Waste Management, No Tolerance.

CURRENT BANDS: Herd Mentality, Rabid Few, The Next Level, Rejekts, Savageheads, Haywire, Final Gasp, Risk, The Massacred, Intensive Care Unit, Vein, Public Trust, Burning Lord, Buried Dreams, C4, Fleshwater, With Hate, Think I Care, Vantage Point, Wanted, Wound Man, New Lows, Lifeless Dark, Fuming Mouth, Innocent, Street Power, Battery March, Colin of Arabia, Fiddlehead, Death Before Dishonor, Impulse Control, Jackal, Opposition, Face First, The Pump, Burden

SHOW SPACES: The Middle East nightclub, Sonia, Brighton Elks Lodge (aka Tribe Dream Arena), Cambridge Elks Lodge (fka Hardcore Stadium), Watertown Canadian American Club, O'Brien's Pub (unfortunately not all ages) and also Sammy's Patio in Revere.

HANGOUTS/FOOD/DRINK: The Middle East, Manray, Model Cafe, the Allston Practice Spaces.

In terms of Vegan/Vegetarian restaurants, the scene lost a valued member of the community, Grasshopper in Allston. I heard they've possibly reopened in a food court somewhere but I'm not entirely sure. Still running strong is Veggie Galaxy in Cambridge.

RECORD STORES: Armageddon Shop located in Harvard Square in Cambridge, that's owned by Ben from Drop Dead. Big Dig Records which is west of Harvard Square in Cambridge. It's co-owned by Chris Minnucci of Painkiller Records and flea market record aficionado John Campoli. Wanna Hear It Records. It's owned and run by Joey Cahill, who ran 6131 Records.

LOCAL CREATIVES: It would be a disservice to not mention that Jimmy Flynn and his Hardcore Stadium moniker, was a cornerstone to Boston Hardcore for over two decades. Rest In Peace to an old Irish dog. I love and miss him. In terms of promoters, Austin from Haywire does great shows and also runs a print shop that supplies merch to a lot of local bands, called Friends Family Forever Merch. There's Absolute Destruction bookings run by a cool dude named Lee. There's also Stupid Idiot Productions/Triple B Records/Tribe Dream Records conglomerate, which is made up of Sam BBB, Doug from Tribe Dream and myself. Mark from Active 8 Records also books punk shows, most recently he did a sick gig at Sammy's Patio for Rixe.

Gatekeeper Jam does shows just outside the city limits in Brockton and Hingham and that's run by Kyle License,

BOSTON, MA

JIM D



C4 PHOTO: @HARDCOREHOTSHOE

Colin Campbell and Chris Cesarini. John Campoli from the aforementioned Big Dig Records does shows as well, usually at the Cambridge Elks.

I'm not really in touch with modern day artists, but I want to shout out two individuals that come to mind. First, Renee from Carrot Cake Zine. They do really cool drawings of bands and compiles them into zines. Second would be Ken Fontaine, who played in Big Contest, Step Forward, Waste Management, etc. He now tattoos at Riverside Tattoo in Cambridge. Get at him, @ken_fontaine_tattoo on instagram.

For photographers, you got Todd Pollack. He's been shooting every gig since 1995! Then you have Patrick Mahoney who goes by the moniker @patspolaroidz. He shoots exclusively on instant film, it's really wild stuff. There's also a guy Matt, who has the IG @hardcorehotshoe who I've been really digging his photos as of late. Lastly there's Al Quint from Suburban Voice fanzine. He's been going to shows since the early 80's and he's still hitting gigs and taking pictures. I'd be mistaken not to mention the videographers who film almost every show in the area. Matt from Montana Media on YouTube and also Jonathan from 97H8 on YouTube.

SCENE STATUS: It's fucking awesome, lots of younger kids who are into a bunch of different types of hardcore. BHC definitely experienced the Covid boom that a lot of scenes experienced and it's been for the better. It wasn't exactly bad 5 years ago, but the turnouts weren't anything like they are now. I haven't been to a poorly attended show in ages.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

KEITH FREEMAN

BRIEF HISTORY: Most people just talk about Boston when it comes to Massachusetts, but Western Mass is a region very worthy of mention. Our biggest claim to fame would be Deep Wound who formed in 1982, but we have so much more to offer from then to now. Western Mass region extends pretty far from the Springfield, Massachusetts region all the way out west towards the border of upstate New York with Pittsfield, Massachusetts, but my area (Springfield) is going to be the main focus I suppose.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Deep Wound, Outpatients, Bloodbath, Pushbutton Warfare, Wishful Thinking, G-Man, and tons more. Since it's 2024 I'd also like to shout out some of my personal favorites HALLRAKER which was a short lived band here from the late 90s and SHOOT TO KILL a very important band from the mid to late 2000s that cultivated me into hardcore. Early 2000s bands like AMPERE, LAST IN LINE and DRAGNET are also very worthy of mention.

CURRENT BANDS: I can't front. I'm in a bunch of bands so I guess I gotta include them because Western Mass isn't as huge of a scene as most major city regions. Restraining Order, Maniac, All Due Respect, Machines Of Hate, and newest addition GREM are what I have to contribute at the moment in terms of current bands. There's also Broken Vow, Dimension, SKUD, Demented FX, Target Scammers, Compress, Red Herrings, Gay Mayor (just made a comeback), and probably more I'm forgetting.

SHOW SPACES: The big three for DIY gigs we do are all in Holyoke, Massachusetts and the venues are The Hoff, The Rat Trap, and Dracula. Sometimes we sprinkle in a new venue here and there but currently those are the most consistent.

HANGOUTS: Most of the time it's just in Holyoke around the venues as there are practice spots too a lot

of the local bands jam and hang at, but for an outsider coming through, I'd say probably Northampton as it's kinda hip and has a bunch of food spots in the area. Maybe hit MGM Casino in Springfield if you're feeling lucky.

EAT/DRINK: Red Rose in Springfield though I barely ever go and it's mostly for homies that visit for the first time. Capri Pizza in Holyoke, a bunch of spots in the Northampton area that's pretty friendly to the vegans/vegetarians too. I don't really go out much for food around here these days though. Holyoke Denny's if it's a post-show meet up since I believe it's 24 hours again.

RECORD STORES: Electric Eye in Florence.

Raspberries in Ludlow and now East Longmeadow, Platterpus in Easthampton, Turn it Up! And Newbury Comics in Northampton.

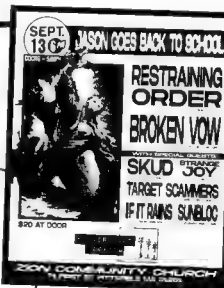
LOCAL CREATIVES: Wmasshshows on Instagram is doing the Lord's work right now in terms of booking and promoting hardcore shows in the area. Silverlake booking (silverlakebooking413) out in Pittsfield is also on the game. Shout outs to the Rat Trap homies Tiz and McCarthy and Palmer Dave for booking the dope punx gigs all the time. Will Hirst (willhirst.com) has been killing it with any music production, engineering, mixing and mastering needed. He's done Mindforce, Restraining Order, Combust and tons more. Will Killingsworth and Dead Air Studios is also a very legendary place here to get music stuff done. Shoutouts to Chris Dooley for being the very essence of Western Mass Hardcore.

SCENE STATUS: Like most scenes these days, the post-lockdown effect really brought WMHC back to life. When I started going to shows, it was pretty lively here and then it died out sometime in the early 2010s. A lot of people thought and still think I was from Boston or Connecticut because I always had to travel out to go to any show. But right now the WMHC scene is probably the best it's been and a cool hotspot for shows and tours I think. Lotta new young kids out here starting bands, booking shows, and moshing hard. Shoutout to Tommy Harte from Broken Vow for help

integrating and uniting that new younger scene with the rest of us. I'm happy to be able to go to a show locally on a weekday and see like 100 kids show up and show bands that we exist and know how to party.



RESTRAINING ORDER PHOTO: @photosxbyem



BRIEF HISTORY: Hardcore and Punk have had a home in Rhode Island since the beginning. We've had many venues like the Living Room, Club Hell, Simon's 677 and Lupo's. Atomic Action is a notable record label. Today we have the lifers and a new generation working together to write the next chapter.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Verbal Assault, Dropdead, Verse

CURRENT BANDS: Peace Test, Catalyst, Impulse, Klaxon, Hairspray Queen, Attrition Rate, If It Rains, Anklebiter, Through and Through, Ultimatum, Twoboyskissing, Silver Dagger

SHOW SPACES: AS220 - an art collective space that also does gallery showings and art workshops, News Cafe - a TINY room that is mostly the bar, The Met - a midsize venue in Pawtucket, Alchemy - Mindforce played here so it's cool to me! Simmons Farm sometimes.

HANGOUTS: Providence Vegan Deli, Chinatown on Thayer - open til 2AM most nights

FOOD/DRINK: VEG FOOD: Providence Vegan Deli -

TOURING BANDS EAT FREE!: Garden Grille & Wildflower Vegan Bakery, Pianta, Veggie Fun - Pan-Asian Vegan Cuisine, Plant City. I don't like coffee but I've heard

PROVIDENCE, RI

RENÉE/CARROT CAKE ZINE

Bolt Coffee is the best around.

RECORD STORES: Armageddon Shop is pretty much the only place to get punk/hc records. They also have a location in Boston but I find the people and parking to be much more pleasant in Providence

LOCAL CREATIVES: Tom Zannini books awesome shows, Brian Simmons - Atomic Action/Simmons Farm, Alex & Aiden Simmons - Brian Simmons's two youngest children, play in Twoboyskissing and rule over the under 21 crowd, Nick Birtles and Evan Stein book shows, Birtles also does flyers/graphic design, Carrot Cake Zine - my zine of live band drawings with short write-ups of the gigs

SCENE STATUS: Hardcore and punk are going strong in Providence. New bands are springing up a couple times a year, releasing demos and playing shows. Bigger bands like Mindforce, Bane, Gorilla Biscuits, Judge and Shelter have played RI recently. Compared to five years ago, the scene is now larger in number and younger in age. This is probably because of online videos, especially during and post-pandemic. Kids are seeing shows on TikTok and YouTube and saying "I want to be part of that!". We have a wide range of ages though, including some elder statesmen holding it down in big ways. I think pretty soon the post-pandemic hardcore boom is going to settle down. Lots of kids will drop out and the real ones will stick around. Right now metalcore, beatdown, and oi rule hardcore but I'm hoping Rhode Island, and around the world, gets back into the roots-hardcore sound that all this came from.

PARTING WORDS: New England has a couple really strong scenes that are worth checking out. Don't skip Providence on your tour!

RI CORE INVITES YOU TO A NIGHT OF NORTHEAST HC...



broken vow
RISK · ANKLEBITER
SKUD · THROUGH & THROUGH
FIRST SHOW!

LIVE AT THE...



THURSDAY MAY 2nd 2024
43 BROAD ST. PAWTUCKET, RI
DOORS 8:30PM · MUSIC 9:30PM
21+ · \$10 CASH AT THE DOOR

ARRIVE EARLY &
BE READY TO
DANCE...

PEACE TEST PHOTO: TODD POLLOCK



BRIEF HISTORY: Baltimore punk and hardcore probably started in the late 70's/early 80's since it's so close to Washington D.C... bands like Gut Instinct were forcing neo-nazis out of Baltimore so that helped shape a very strong anti-racist scene here. Bands like Next Step Up and Stout would continue to do so while being some of the heaviest bands to come out of Baltimore which influenced a lot of Baltimore Hardcore bands. Early 2000's is when I started going to shows and they were so cool to me because it felt like there were so many bands coming out that were killing it all on different labels with different sounds and no matter what bands would come through on tour, they'd be opening the show like Trapped Under Ice, Pulling Teeth, Ruiner, and Alarmed just to name a few. Charm City Artspace, Sidebar, and Talking Head held most of the smaller shows but the larger shows would be held at Ottobar, Ten Car Pileup, and Sonar. I feel like the Baltimore scene would have highs and lows like a rollercoaster but in the 2010's we'd still have the Artspace who was holding most of the shows since they moved next door to a bigger space (shoutout The Gallery) and bands like Angel Du\$t, Mindset, Turnstile, Piece Keeper, and Queensway would frequently play there. Most of those bands started touring a lot or disbanding and then there was a drought in the scene. End It started doing shows in 2017 so it felt alive again and the main venue that held smaller shows was at a restaurant called Asian Taste in Hampden and The Raven Inn outside of the city. Covid hit and all these bands started forming like Jivebomb and Sinister Feeling to bring that raw sound and now we have tons of bands from here that represent Baltimore so well.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Gut Instinct, Lungfish, Next Step Up, Stout, Slumlords, NickxFury, Desperate Measures, Lion Of Judah, Trapped Under Ice, Counting The Days, Surroundings, Alarmed, Pulling Teeth,

BALTIMORE, MD

CHRIS GONZALEZ/END IT

Ruiner, Brick, Sacred Love, In Between, Torn Apart, Never Enough, Mindset, Piece Keeper, Queensway, Big Mouth, Post Pink, Truth Cult... the list goes on, sorry if I missed you.

CURRENT BANDS: Turnstile, End It, Angel Du\$t, Jivebomb, Sinister Feeling, Erode, Praise, Gasket, Skallar, Civilian, Doubt, Red Eye, Narcan, Scrutinize, Meth Rats, Ousted, so many.

SHOW SPACES: The Ottobar, Holy Frijoles, The Metro Gallery, Soundstage, One Step Too Many, Dead Above Ground, and The Defect, Reptile House, B.R.A.T., Wake Up Cold, Harsh Truth, Dead End Boys, Backhand

VEG FOOD: Johnny Rad's, The Royal Blue Bar, Snakehill-all vegan friendly and GREAT.

RECORD STORES: Celebrated Summer is the best.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Baltimore's Patrick Martin and Ethan Jivebomb are who I send people to for booking shows. Kenny Savercool is my favorite photographer around here :)

SCENE STATUS: Baltimore City Hardcore (BCHC) is thriving. I feel like it isn't slowing down anytime soon.

MONDAY MAY 27, 2024
SUMMER HEAT STARTS IN THE STREET

DRAIN
TERROR ANGEL DUST



OUTSIDE BALTIMORE SOUNDSTAGE

FLYER: LINAS GARSYS

END IT PHOTO: KENNY SAVERCOOL

BRIEF HISTORY: Hardcore and punk in the Twin Cities began not far after the coasts had bands popping up. So many bands came through here, even Minor Threat, which influenced locals to start their bands. Within the scene, there was also a posse of skinhead hardcore kids in the late 80s called the Baldies. They fought racism out of the scene and held meetings discussing their anti-fascist efforts that drew people from all across the country to come to the Twin Cities.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Disembodied, Blind Approach, Harvest, Holding on, Martyr AD, Dillinger Four, Code 13, Hüsker Dü, The Replacements, The Real Enemy, Threadbare, Final Conflict.

CURRENT BANDS: Identity Crisis, Bad Supremacy, Gnaw, xAOGCx, Valeska Suratt, Sleeper Cell, Giallo, Buio Omega, Chain of Hatred, Hostility, Lack, Victory, Empire Down.

SHOW SPACES: Pillar Forum Cafe, Caydence Records, Flying V, Klash Drums, Legion Hall. Underground Music Cafe

FOOD/DRINK: The Twin cities are not exempt from the trope of people in hardcore working in coffee. For Coffee, Vitality, Dogwood, Fragment, SK, Cafetto.

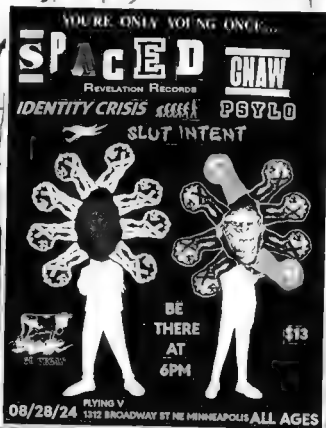
VEG FOOD: Most of the "spots" are vegan. Hard Times and Modern Times are both are both great vegan punky spots. Francis burger and J Selbys are two other dope vegan spots. Uncle Franky's have the best hotdogs in town. Mesa might have the best pizza, you also can never go wrong with Pizza Luce or Canes.

RECORD STORES: Extreme Noise. Volunteer run hardcore record store, filled with punk/hardcore/metal and everything in between. Music, Books, Shirts, Studs. They even have small shows on occasion in a back room. Owned by Felix Havoc of Code 13, who is still straight edge. Single Handedly the greatest record store.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Noah Kofoot (@Rivercity.slumlord) plays in xAOGCx and Lack, He books most of the shows here and helps put on Snow and Flurry fest. He also runs Future Sight Records which puts out almost every local hardcore band. Kyle Young (@Nikescarkyle) plays in Out4Blood and also books a good portion of the shows here. Andy Wilcox (@Awilco), Samantha (@whatwas.reallysaid), Agnes (@maybe.agnes), and Andrew Sawyer (@disposablexarts) take the best photos that document our scene. Maddie Spall (@maddogwould) plays in Lack, Gnaw and Everybody Takes One. She has recorded and mixed nearly every band here, and is always pumping out a a new dope flyer. Nate Adkins (@head2wall) is at every show, he runs Twin Cities Scene Report, and makes great flyers, and runs Head2wall records. Dubby (dubbin.mn) does vocals in Gnaw and moshes beautifully to ever band. Dave (@davexsiko) runs Gnarly Print Co, he screenprints for bands full time, all by himself all DIY. Him and his wife Amanda also put on CS Jam every year which is a one day Hardcore/Death Metal Fest.

MINNEAPOLIS/ SAINT PAUL, MN

FRANKIE



FLYER: NATE HEAD2WALL

IDENTITY CRISIS PHOTO: ANDY WILCOX



SCENE STATUS: I'm really thankful for the hardcore scene we have here. It's at the biggest ive ever seen. There are a ton of straight edge kids. I believe we have a great balance of size, Everybody knows each other for the most part, it feels like one big hangout most of the time. People always pop out to shows, people always dance. Attendance rarely feels lackluster. It also is nice to have shows that dont feel too big, I think as shows get too big the community element can be lost. hardcore kids go to punk shows and vice versa. The two scenes are mildly separated, it's truly one of my favorite things ever when they overlap which happens every now and again. Hardcore lives.

PENSACOLA, FL

CARTER HOLMES

BRIEF HISTORY: Pensacola does not have a long history when it comes to hardcore. I don't want this to come off as pretentious, but we kind of made the history that is there, specifically the group of kids that are slightly older than me that got me into hardcore. In my opinion, I think there's something really cool about it being this way. There definitely were shows and some form of bands before my time, but I would say around 2009 is when the scene really came into its own and the effects of that era can still be seen here today. Without the core group of people from that time it would not be what it is today.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: I would say the two most notable bands are Cold Hearted and Malice at the Palace. Cold Hearted is definitely the band that set everything in motion for Pensacola and the people in that band are directly responsible for how much I love hardcore. Since I was like a 16 year-old kid, they would take me on tour with them and shows out of town and are still my friends to this day nearly 15 years later. Malice at the Palace is the band that I would say is definitely the most known from my area. They did a lot of touring and even went out of the country, and from my knowledge, that's the only hardcore band from this area that ever did that. I'm happy to say that I did basically every single tour they ever did as well and those are some of the best times of my life.

CURRENT BANDS: Definitely Burning Strong and Statement of Pride. They haven't gotten to play that many shows, but they're also a band with young kids here called Milestone.

SHOW SPACES: The Handlebar and Subculture. The Handlebar is definitely THE venue of the scene here, and my friend Robert who played in Cold Hearted and MATP even runs it now. So having hardcore shows there works out perfectly.

FOOD/DRINK: End of the line is the old-school vegan spot around here. They're actually used to be punk/hardcore shows there, and I haven't been able to find it in years, but there used to be a video on YouTube Of mind eraser playing there back in the day. Another amazing spot is OG Lola's, vegan food truck serving Filipino food. Aside from that we don't have that many strictly vegan places, but like most places in 2024 almost has a good option. We actually have a lot of coffee shops in Pensacola, but I'd say the best local one is definitely jitterbug.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Rob Goodspeed definitely is the godfather of Pensacola hardcore, he owns the local venue in town and has had a hand in hardcore since I was like 14 when we met. Aside from that my

friend Josh runs a dope zine called Between the Lines. To be honest, most of the people in our scene just support by going to shows, not many people doing zines or taking photos even Imao

SCENE STATUS: I'd be lying if I said it was great. After Covid, we had a huge resurgence, but a lot of those kids have stopped caring already. I think the biggest problem Pensacola faces is the lack of younger kids getting into it here, we definitely have a few, but it's few and far between. When we do have shows though they are pretty well attended, and the vibes are great. I'd definitely like to see a lot more shows here, but it's hard when there's not that many touring bands that come around. IF YOU'RE READING THIS HIT ME UP TO PENSACOLA. I don't want to be negative and say worse, because I think if we had more bands coming around, there would be people and shows easily but without shows consistently it's kind of hard to judge.

THE ONE SCENE UNITES IN THE PANHANDLE

SATURDAY MAY 18TH

FROM WITHIN

SPRING 2024
SHOWCASE



MAGNITUDE MALICE SEED OF PAIN
AT THE PALACE

ENVISION - WORN - COLLATERAL - DIMENSION SIX
STATEMENT OF PRIDE - BURNING STRONG - MILESTONE

THE HANDLEBAR 319 N TARRAGONA ST. PENSACOLA, FL

DOORS 3 PM • SHOW 4 PM • \$25 ADV.



BRIEF HISTORY: South Florida has always been at a geographical disadvantage compared to other Floridian regions. Just being an extra 4 hours south of Orlando or Tampa has tended to cut us off from major tours, hardcore or not. That being the case I feel that, generationally, we've always strived to compensate at a local level to 1. Garner attention from the surrounding cities and states to get other bands down here and 2. Just learn to live with that disadvantage and appreciate what we have for what it is. I think that has led us into putting a huge focus on pumping out bands just to fill up bills from show to show. That would probably also explain why bands down here have always been comprised of different permutations of the same people; like you'll so often have one friend group that has 4 or more bands between them all just from rotating members or changing instruments. Not to say that doesn't happen anywhere else it's just always been incredibly common here. All that is to say that historically we've always been a locally focused scene and honestly still are.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: To sort of continue from the previous answer, historically South Florida has always been known for its metallic hardcore exports so people are probably most familiar with Poison The Well, Mourning Again, Eulogy Records type stuff in general. I feel like cause of that geographic separation I mentioned, we definitely have a large handful of bands probably only locals and deep divers of zines, blogspots, and obscure youtube rabbit holes would know or appreciate. Some of my personal favorites would be **TENSION, OUT OF SPITE, MEHKAGO NT, POWERHOUSE (SFL)** I know they're not really a lowkey band but I'm just gonna throw on **KNOW THE SCORE** in there cause they're one of my favorite old skool SFL bands.

CURRENT BANDS: Domain, Seed of Pain, Collateral, Xcelerate, Day by Day, Ephemerel, Sidearm and Moment of Truth, Be All End All, Dissent, No Truth, Fallen God **SHOW SPACES:** Currently pretty much all of our hardcore shows save for a few stragglers happen at American Legion Post 92 (Hollywood), Gramps (Miami), and Black Flamingo Brewery (Pompano).

FOOD/DRINK: Not veg restaurants but very veg friendly: Pink Buddha for Chinese food, Thai Meal, Vanucci Brothers for Pizza. Actual vegan spots: I'd highly recommend Happy Vegan Bakers, Vegan Cuban Cuisine, Vegan Delights, and L'Artisanne.

RECORD STORES: Technique Records Connect Records (rising from the ashes of Radioactive Records), Sweat Records.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters: Equinox Booking and Breakeven Booking. Artists/ Designers: Rob Cerrito (@ccerritoart), Young Albert (@smokelikehalos) and myself but dont hmu I'm very very irresponsible. Zines: I might just be out of touch on this one but I'm not aware of any kids making zines rn but I hope that changes soon. Fortress Fanzine #2 coming this winter hopefully... Photographers: Sal Rispoli (@sexiest_grandma), Edda (@edda.mami), dont know his actual name but (@Artistorkiller who also records vhs vids of gigs) Special shoutout to Zack Rogers, arguably the best SFLHC photographer of all time but he moved to Richmond last year....

SCENE STATUS: I feel like having a good scene is like spinning these five plates: good bands, good venues, new kid/old head ratio (let's call it 5:1), zines, labels, and SFL has always been in a state of having like 3 of the 5 at any given

SOUTH FLORIDA

MICHAEL MORALES/
FORTRESS RECORDS



COLLATERAL PHOTO: @SEXIESTGRANDMA

moment and which 3 we have always changes. Right now we have sooo many new kids, headcount even on a tuesday is no problem. We have like 3 labels which is probably fine for now. Like I said previously, no zines besides mine that I'm aware of at least I really hope some newer kids start putting some out. For the first time in so long we have pretty consistent all ages venues. Lastly, I think we're hitting the fulcrum point where the younger kids are doing their bands and the bands sound tighter, most focused and its a pretty hopeful thing to witness. I would say that 5 years ago was my favorite era of SFL because that was peak for me and my friends personally but that era doesn't come without its flaws. Practically no venues except 1 tiny (but legendary) one, no new kids pretty much at all for this entire time, and personal politics/vendettas definitely held things back at the time. BUT we had plenty of diverse labels and bands and even though it was probably the time in sfl history that we had the least touring bands coming through, the shows we did have were all insane because our scene just had such a strong lineup of local bands at the time (see any Space Mountain miami gig that was documented over on Youtube).

In contrast, the current scene has more people than ever, kids dance and sing along to most bands, they like a little bit of everything, I think its a great foundation, I just want to see more bands and zines pop up, and to see the bands the younger bands are doing to stick around long enough to plant their flag in the canon. I think in 5 years this current crop of kids that make up the scene now will have had their feet planted long enough to do some more sick bands and make more contributions to their scene, they're certainly talented and drive enough to do it.

BRIEF HISTORY: It's probably best told through venues - The Anthrax (Norwalk) was the OG spot where it seems HC first landed in our lovely state. Lots of good photos of bands like Youth of Today, etc. from that spot. Closed forever ago. Bristol Bike Exchange is just about the best thing you can search on youtube - Some epic sets up there. Hatebreed, Cornerstone, Madball, Earth Crisis. There was the Hanover House in Meriden, where bands like Dead Wrong and Man's Ruin, which turned into Palehorse, played a lot I think. 100 Demons, Death Threat, all the dope bands that started around then played there. Bobby Allen's was an important spot too, where they did CT Brotherhood fest in maybe 08 or 09. The Wallingford American Legion is the first place I ever saw a hardcore show, and that was sort of the staple DIY spot from like... Maybe 2005 to 2023. It's the only place that's stuck around, and every CTHC band during that time played there often. I used to go to a lot of hardcore punk shows there when I was a kid - The Killboys, Eat and Run, and Stomped on Sight played like once a month. Just a lot of dope area bands.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: To try and hit some I haven't mentioned, in rough chronology: Youth of Today (Just to get that covered), Higher Force, Another Wall, Dismay, Follow Through, Die My Will, At All Costs, On Three, Stab You In The Head, Jagged Visions,

CURRENT BANDS: Kidnapped, Restraining Order, Balmora, Soulless, Laid 2 Rest, Crucial Point, Wreckage, Almighty Watching, Utility

SHOW SPACES: Basically, the far east or the far west parts of CT. The Killingly VFW has had some dope shows lately, and there's the Maxx in New Milford. Crunch House in West Haven is always there too, but it's hard to bring bigger bands there.

HANGOUTS: Modern Apizza in New Haven, or whichever coffee spot has the fewest Yalies. Or the Daze mansion in Bozrah.

FOOD/DRINK: Modern and Sally's are the spots for pizza, and Perkatory is a pretty good local coffee chain with funny signs "Stay Calm and Listen to Punk Rock" and stuff like that. Jitterbus in New Haven is a great coffee too, a little more lowkey. As for vegan options, it's kinda rough out here. But we got Munchies vegan sandwiches in New Haven, and ION in Middletown, where one of those Perkatory locations is.

RECORD STORES: Redscroll Records had everything you could ever want. They've been holding it down since they were just a distro at shows in the mid-2000s, and Static Era in Milford is a new place that's run by the homie Jay Reason. He's got a dope CTHC museum at the register.

SCENE STATUS: Honestly, we're hurting a little because we're so beat for venues and most of the bands and promoters who've carried things along recently have moved into busier stages of life. Hopefully some of these younger kids will grab the torch in terms of

CONNECTICUT

MATT/WRECKAGE



WRECKAGE PHOTO: ROTTEN LENS



starting new hardcore bands and finding some venues. Some kid in Eastern CT has a straight rolodex of dope hall venues, but it can be a tall order to get kids out there. And by kids I mean those of us who've been spoiled by great venues within 30 minutes of us for the past fifteen years. My knee jerk reaction is that things are way better now, but if I really dig, I feel like a lot of the kids coming around today started going to shows around that time, and we did just have more bands and venues back then. Seventh Circle was also really going out of their way to bring in touring bands, which is something that happens a little less these days. I still think we're in a good spot though, all things considered. I wouldn't be surprised if eastern Connecticut becomes the epicenter just for the fact of all those good venues. And I'd certainly like to think some new bands come around to shake things up, but who knows.

PARTING WORDS: CT really has nothing without our neighbors. Shout out to the Hudson Valley, Western Mass, and Providence. Check out Through and Through, If It Rains, Cross of Disbelief, Broken Vow, Godskin Peeler, The Next Level - All honorary CTHC in my book. Peace!

BRIEF HISTORY: KC / Lawrence has had a rich history from a hardcore/punk standpoint. Dating back to the Outhouse days (venue outside Lawrence, KS) to HR from Bad Brains going to jail after hitting someone with a mic stand to Paul Bearer (Sheer Terror) living in KC in the 90s and working at an ice cream shop haha. We've gone through very well-known local venues like El Torreon, Spitfire, The Anchor, and Studded Bird (to name a few) but were

staples for specific over the past 25 years and are all defunct now. But helped provide a space for both touring bands and local bands alike. Sonically KC has gone through waves of heavy hardcore and hardcore that aligns more on the punk side of the spectrum. And we've historically had eras where we couldn't afford to have separate scenes to support those styles. You'd have these large mixed bill gigs which was common. I'd say we are currently still in that to a certain extent but the more specific punk bands (especially those that don't recognize hardcore) chose to not participate.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Coalesce, Saved By Grace, Alert Alert, Nervous Wreck, Dark Ages, Eyes of the Betrayer, Give it Up, No Class, Kicked In, Beta Boys, BummeR, Blindside USA, Sucked Dry, Keef Mountain, Inner Alter, Wild Man Wild, Devil's Den, Sorry Excuse

CURRENT BANDS: Lower Heaven, Burning Bush, Failure Drill, Cauterized, Legalize Homicide, God Talk, Final Atomic Battle, Ten Times Fast, Nerver, Stakes Is High, Conflicts, Madman, Hooded Grave, Siilk

SHOW SPACES: Howdy, Farewell, Encore, Record Bar, Blip

FOOD/DRINK: KC is known for BBQ so we'll start with those spots and I'll notate if there are veg options. I'll also list out a few veg spots. I also try to reach out to friends as they play KC to provide them a list if they've never been here or don't know so feel free to reach out. BBQ: Joes KC, Slaps, Arthur Bryant's, Jack Stack, Char Bar (Veg Options). Burger: Westport Flea Market, Town Topic. Coffee: Messenger, Oddly Correct, Monarch, Messenger, Blip. Mexican: Bonito Michoacán. San Antonio, (there's a ton more).

RECORD STORES: Sister Anne's, Records with Merritt, Mills, Josey

LOCAL CREATIVES:

Promoters: Aaron Rhodes, Mickey Ortiz. Photographers: Celeste Chacon (Gremlin), Pat Ard

SCENE STATUS: Hardcore is thriving here. Being in bands the past 15+ years and a part of the scene for 20 I've seen a lot of highs and lows, and we are definitely in a high right now.

KANSAS CITY

ANTONIO MARQUEZ

5 years ago there were less bands, less venues, and less people going to shows. But the scene was still great, just relied heavily on the same group of 20-30 people coming to every show to ensure it was a success. Now the scene has grown a lot. The interest is at an all-time high. I think the interest skews more to heavier hardcore which is common with the current state of HC. There's a lot of interest in zines and getting into older bands too, which is very cool. I've been around long enough to know that what goes up, must come down... Therefore, I'm not sure how sustainable it will be 5 years from now. My hope is that it continues to grow in a positive way but it's possible the interest fizzles and people are onto the next thing.



SPINE PHOTO: PAT ARD

BRIEF HISTORY: The early history of our scene is well documented and beyond well represented. The foundation laid by Dischord still permeates through our blood and no matter what any New Yorker tries to tell you, the Bad Brains are 100% a DC band. After Revolution Summer, however, our story is mostly only known to and celebrated by locals. From what my elders have told me and from what I've seen, the '90s in DC had huge shows and were a must-stop for any touring band. As far as local bands from that era, our biggest HC exports were Damnation A.D., Battery, Ashes, and Worlds Collide. And if you count Fugazi, which I would, there is no better or bigger influence on the ethos and ideology of our scene. The 2000s were represented by bands like 86 Mentality, Striking Distance, No Justice, Desperate Measures (who claimed Maryland at a time when lines between the city and the suburbs were more strict, but we forgive them), Lion of Judah, The Aftermath, Worn Thin, and more. Parallel—and sometimes intersecting—with the hardcore scene of the 2000s were more off-kilter bands with similar DIY ethics. Groups like Pageninety-nine, Majority Rule, and City of Caterpillar were pushing the definition of what punk could be stylistically and aesthetically, brandishing their own creative and derelict version of what some call screamo. Simultaneously, later-era Dischord bands like Q and Not U and Black Eyes were continuing the tradition of experimentation laid by our scene's forefathers. Later in the 2000s, bands like GIVE popped up laying the path for the next hardcore generation to come. A few years after that, the scene was bustling with new bands like Protester, Pure Disgust, Red Death, and Kombat. With those bands came a cohort of kids, many of which are still involved today and have since stepped up to oldhead status for a new generation of youth.

CURRENT BANDS: Brain Tourniquet, Grand Scheme, Laughing Corpse, Daunting Nightmare, Posición Unida, Retain, Druhtiz, Deliriant Nerve, Inversion, Seclusion, RDX, Expiration Date, and more!

SHOW SPACES: Unfortunately, we don't have a dedicated venue for punk and hardcore stuff, but a lot of shows happen at Rhizome, which is a DIY space that usually hosts mostly avant-garde and experimental music. Besides there, regular shows happen at more traditional venues like the Pie Shop or Quarry House, with bigger shows happening at Songbyrd or legendary church venue, St. Stephens.

FOOD/DRINK/HANGOUTS: Unfortunately, social media and capitalism have nuked the third place as a must-have in society but luckily a lot of us congregate at our second place—work. Punks are heavily represented in the staff of Donut Run, an incredible vegan donut place in the Takoma neighborhood. No matter what time you pop in, you are guaranteed to be served by someone in the scene. Joint Custody is a record store and vintage clothing

WASHINGTON, DC

AMBROSE NZAMS



POSICION UNIDA PHOTO: DISCLOSE MAG

store that has been hardcore owned and operated since 2011. Even if I didn't work there, which I have since its inception, I'd argue that Joint Custody is a must-stop for anyone visiting DC who is interested in punk, hardcore, or anything outsider. Our U St. location—the one you can find me at—is open daily from 12 to 8pm. In the oncoming months, we're opening a second location on the same block as Donut Run, and I imagine that soon enough, that section of the city will be overrun by punks on a daily basis.

LOCAL CREATIVES: DC is filled with zinemakers and the zine-curious. Shining Life Press is this city's greatest export. John and Zack do an incredible job archiving history and supporting the present. (By the time you're reading this, hopefully the Floorpunch book is out!) Brick Digest is a zine on the city, its buildings, its culture, and more by Szantos. Paula and I also make a magazine, called Demystification, that comes out on a somewhat infrequent basis. As far as booking, shows here are booked by a variety of people with no specific booking collectives but all with distinct style. This past summer, there have been great shows booked by Laura, Shawn, and Aidan. Hoping kids see this and take the reins, continuing to book shows just to make cool shit happen, without the validation of a branding and without mainstream aspirations.

SCENE STATUS: The scene is great! Regular attendance is maybe the best it's been in my 20 years of going to shows. The community is also incredibly diverse and kids are super excited. There are maybe not as many new bands that have toured or broken out of the city yet, but I suspect that change will come as the younger kids here start bands or travel for shows and connect with other kids in other cities. The future here is looking bright and I can only hope we continue onward and upward.

RALEIGH, NC

DANIEL LUPTON

BRIEF HISTORY: Raleigh is a small-ish city with a long history of great hardcore bands from Corrosion of Conformity in the 80s to Double Negative in the 2000s with plenty in between and beyond. We're also intimately tied to Durham and Chapel Hill, smaller cities in our vicinity with their own scenes, and other cities in NC like Greensboro, Charlotte, and Asheville that all have their own unique character. Richmond, Virginia is only two and a half hours away from us so there's a lot of back and forth between there too.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Notable 80s bands include Corrosion of Conformity, No Labels, Ugly Americans, and lesser-known bands like Colcor, Stillborn Christians, and No Rock Stars. If you're curious about NC HC in the 80s, get the *Why Are We Here?* 7" compilation and the *No Core* cassette compilation. I didn't live here in the 90s and that stuff isn't as well documented, but I know there were metalcore bands like Undying and a crust scene with bands like Gnosis. When Double Negative started in the 2000s it sparked a whole new wave of bands like Cross Laws, Stripmines, Devour, Logic Problem, Shards, and many more. Most of the people from these bands are still active today.

CURRENT BANDS: My tastes are pretty narrow, but nowadays I enjoy seeing Paranoid Maniac, DE(OT), Starving Bomb, Fucking War, and Meat House. There are a few good bands in Chapel Hill / Durham like Geeked and Pollute as well. I play in a band called Scarecrow that has released a few records and toured. There are lots of bands playing other styles of punk and hardcore that aren't really on my radar, though.

SHOW SPACES: RUMAH—Raleigh United Mutual Aid Hub—is an anarchist community space started by members of Raleigh Food Not Bombs and they host no-alcohol all ages gigs. Kings and Neptunes are the two main clubs that host shows. There are also occasionally shows at a club called the Pour House, there's a new (primarily metal) venue called Chapel of Bones, and house shows still happen from time to time.

HANGOUTS: People in Raleigh don't hang out enough... most of my hangs are at homies' houses listening to records. You might also catch folks skating at Marsh Creek skatepark or the new park on Capital Boulevard. There are probably tattoo shops people chill at but that isn't really my scene.

Anyone into punk/hardcore and vinyl definitely stops regularly at Sorry State Records.

VEG FOOD: Purr Cup Cafe is a cat cafe with an all-vegan menu and it's owned by punks who put their politics front and center even if it costs them business. That's where I like to get coffee, but Raleigh Times is centrally located downtown and usually employs punks and music types as baristas. There's also a coffee shop near NC State called Cup A Joe where

young and old punks hang out. My favorite restaurant is Fiction Kitchen. They're all vegan, the owners are super cool, and their food is incredible. Get their specials or farmers plates, but they also do great vegan versions of southern staples like NC BBQ and chicken and waffles. Also shoutout Beansprout, who has been providing Raleigh punks with cheap tofu dishes in huge portions for many years.

RECORD STORES: Yep, Sorry State Records (disclaimer: I am the owner). There are a few other shops in town like Nice Price and The Pour House (they're a venue as well as a record shop) that also get cool punk records from time to time.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Will Butler has run To Live a Lie Records for decades. He's primarily into fastcore and power violence, and over the years he's put out tons of records, booked shows, and done zines. Punk cartoonist Brian Walsby lives here, but he makes it clear he's completely uninterested in the current scene (BOOO!).

SCENE STATUS: Despite some bright spots, it kind of feels like it's in decline. Raleigh has been brutally gentrified over the past 10+ years as our city's leaders try to remake it as some kind of faceless tech hub. A lot of people have moved here (and cost of living has consequently skyrocketed), but it seems like they're all boring yuppies. 5 years ago, the scene was probably about the same in size. Fewer venues, though. I'm jealous of other scenes like Charlotte, Richmond, and Norfolk where there's lots of new blood. In the future... best case: all these yuppies have bratty problem children that rebel and do generator shows in the rubble of cookie-cutter 7-story condo buildings.

PARTING WORDS: Sorry to anyone I forgot to include. I'm an old guy and an introvert so I know there's plenty going on that I'm not aware of.



PARANOID MANIAC PHOTO: DAVID SCHWENTKER

PUBLIC ACID PHOTO: @razorthedeadaspirin



RICHMOND, VA

CHRIS CAMPBELL

BRIEF HISTORY: From my knowledge, hardcore began in Richmond with bands like Honor Role and White Cross in the early to mid 80's with shows largely revolving around the legendary 929 West Grace Street. Four Walls Falling was the first band that could be described as "Capital H" to really pop here, along with Hate O Four, Inquisition and the almighty Avail, who ran shit in Richmond throughout the 90s. Around the 2000's Richmond started to become what it's known as today. Government Warning, Count Me Out, Down To Nothing, Direct Control, Cast Aside, Dead Serious, Murder Weapon, Wasted Time, Socialcide, Bracewar and countless others headlined the Richmond scene that was popping off in every corner. This was also the time of No Way Fest, Best Friends Day, and United Blood making Richmond a destination for people around the country. From the 2010's into today everything remains strong as ever, refusing to let venues closing, bands breaking up, and any other schism break down what's been built here.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: White Cross, Honor Role, Graven Image, Avail, Hate O Four, Strike Anywhere, Count Me Out, DTN, Bracewar, Naysayer, Government Warning, Wasted Time

CURRENT BANDS: Killing Pace, Division Of Mind, Downfall, Lose Sight, Destruct, Cicada, Fried Reality, MAD, Sacrifice, Jealous God, Enforced, Blazing Tomb, Copperhead, Public Acid, Coyote

SHOW SPACES: The Warehouse is the home of Richmond subculture, VSC is the House Show Capital, Banditos and The Camel are the bar spots, Hells Door is the outdoor spot

FOOD/DRINK: Coffee hangouts are Blanchards, Lamplighter and Afterglow. Main food spots frequented by punks and hc kids are Harrison Street Cafe, McLean's, Pho Tay Do, Scott's Shwarma, Lee's Chicken, Benny's, 821 cafe, and Cook Out

RECORD STORES: Vinyl Conflict, Deep Groove, Records and Relics, Plan 9

LOCAL CREATIVES: Truthfully too many to properly shoutout but, Charlotte, Augie, Sully, Erik, Jessica, Baylan, Jordan, Max, Logan, Travis

SCENE STATUS: Alive and well. Crops of new kids are constantly coming in and finding a new home, every corner of the scene is popping, from Slam/beatdown to d beat, everything has a home and is strong. Just last night there was an Identity Shock show and a Restrictor Plate show happening at the same time, and both were well attended and popping. Hardcore is too ingrained in the culture of the city of Richmond for it to ever go away. I am endlessly thankful to have been born and raised here and for the friends I've made in my time here. Shits just different here.



DOWNFALL PHOTO: @charlottexmooney



MILWAUKEE, WI

TOM HIVELY

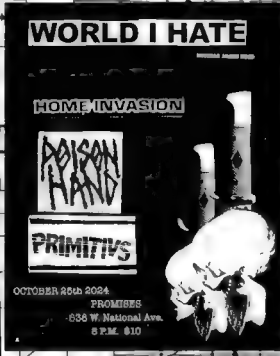
BRIEF HISTORY: It was kinda all over the place. Die Kreuzen in the 80's, Violent Femmes in the 80's and 90's and continues to this day as well. The Promise Ring playing emo music in the 90's, then some more metalcore stuff in the early 2000's such as Misery Signals. We had Cross Me on Bridge 9 and Flatspot records in the 2010's and now most recently we have Big Laugh on Rev and Convulse Records.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Die Kreuzen, The Promise Ring, Since By Man, 7 Angels 7 Plagues, Misery Signals, Cross Me

CURRENT BANDS: Big Laugh, World I Hate, Enervate, Twisted Truth, See No Evil, Innuendo

SHOW SPACES: We are blessed to have two all ages venues owned by hardcore kids and punks so they "get it", Cactus Club and X-Ray Arcade. Milwaukee has always struggled with having consistent venues and we're finally in a great place. We also have some house venues and then some bars / 21+ spots as well.

FOOD/DRINK: The Vanguard. It's billed as a gourmet hotdog / sausage spot but it's so much more than that. Full vegan menu as well. The burnt ginger tofu is the GOAT, even if you are not vegan. Best item on the menu hands down. I am not a coffee drinker myself but on the occasion I do partake, I recommend Anodyne or Stone Creek Coffee.



ENERVATE PHOTO: CHANCE HARROLLE

RECORD STORES: Blast Radius and Rushmor Records for sure. Both owned by punks and hardcore kids. Always willing to let me hang up show flyers and both have great selections of punk and hardcore records.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoter wise I want to shout out JJ Kasier (talent buyer / promoter at X-Ray Arcade / The Basement Collective), Kelsey Kaufmann (owner and talent buyer / promoter at Cactus Club), Michael Sokolowski (Milwaukee Hardcore Shows), Gav and Hannah at Devotion Booking based in Madison, Wisconsin (90 mins west of Milwaukee). I (Tom Hively) have also been booking shows for 8 years under Milwaukee Hardcore Shows but it felt silly to shout out myself haha. We have a ton of very talented photographers here but special shout out to Chance Harrolle (@side2side.imagery), Samer Ghani (@samerghani) and Meredith Rice (@meredithricephotos). We also have a ton of talented artists here but my go to for my flyers are Benjamin Wittlinger (@godcalledinsicktoday) and Hannah of Devotion Booking (sorry idk how to spell your last name lol) (@graveyard.tree)

SCENE STATUS: Like a lot of places, we experienced a huge boom once shows came back in 2021 and it honestly just keeps getting better. Every show is popping and most are damn near sold out if not sold out. We have a ton of new bands starting and a ton of new faces at each show. I can't stress this enough. Bands, route your tours through Milwaukee. You won't regret it.

In 2019 shows had been consistently good compared to previous years but it was not where near as good as it is now. Hopefully the "post covid" boom will continue on indefinitely but I know that's not a realistic expectation. I would love to see the scene continue to grow forever though haha. My goal within the next 5 years is to book a 500+ plus hardcore show. Biggest DIY venue we have is currently 300 so I will need to put in some work to find something suitable! I say DIY venue as we do have bigger rooms but those are thousands of dollars to book and don't care about hardcore so I don't consider those DIY spots.

BRIEF HISTORY: New Jersey has given birth to some of the all time greats across the entire genre of punk / hardcore. It's undeniable the impact bands from New Jersey have contributed to the sounds that are popular in current day music.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Misfits, Lifetime, Floorpunch, 108, Fury of V, NJ Bloodline, E Town Concrete, Folly, Monster Magnet, The Grim/Klone Band, Adrenalin O.D., The Worst, Rosemary's Babies, The Undead, Chronic Sick, Turning Point, Token Entry, Hogan's Heroes, Vision, Resurrection, Release, Mouthpiece, Rorschach, Endeavor, The Banner, Thursday, and The Mongoloids

CURRENT BANDS: Bayway, Negative Force, Cutdown, Denial, Human Blister, Gunk, Hindsight straight edge, Unchained, Defy You

SHOW SPACES: We unfortunately just lost a spot called Salty's that had some pretty legendary shows over the past few years. From that falling apart a few of us decided to open our own spot in Long Branch, NJ called "Shore Style collective" Expect to start seeing a lot going on there. Also shout out to Cinco de mayo in New Brunswick, NJ another very dope DIY spot.

HANGOUTS: Asbury Park boardwalk, Freehold mall, Menlo Park mall, Sayreville skatepark, TDT Screen Printing

FOOD/DRINK: Veggie Heaven is worldwide top tier. There are a few locations but Teaneck, NJ is the supreme leader. I once watched Paul drummer from The Banner sign autographs at this location for no joke hours. Also an outstanding Bubble tea. Veganized in New Brunswick is another stellar place to enjoy vegan food in NJ. And then of course Towne Deli in Summit, NJ for the best sandwiches in the entire state!

RECORD STORES: Princeton Record Exchange (Princeton, NJ), Vinyl Addiction Records (North Arlington, NJ)

LOCAL CREATIVES: Some promoters I put on for are Dylan Takedown Records, Swank Shore Style Punk Night, Jay Stomp Out, Ricky Ricardo sexy beast productions, Avery Field. A New Zine that's so cool is "Not Just Boys Fun" hit Morgan on IG to get a copy @pushing_death Photographers - Belford, NJ's own William Marks is nasty with it, Theo @nottheosicurella

NEW JERSEY

GREG FALCHETTO

on IG does some insane video stuff. He's the one that did music videos for both Bayway and Hold My Own, and lastly Carl Gunhouse originally from NJ is another incredible photographer and still holds it down for the garden state even if his present driving license reads NY.

SCENE STATUS: God level. So many new kids are getting involved, doing their homework learning about the old yet still supporting and creating the new. Best the scene has felt in a very long time. I feel like 5 years ago a lot of tours skipped NJ and shows were few and far between. Now NJ feels like a destination location that bands are seeking to come play here. Shit is truly special. As long as the people coming in contribute and not just take, we will be lightyears ahead! Always growing!

PARTING WORDS: New Jersey straight edge always and forever!



BAYWAY PHOTO: WILLIAM MARKS



PITTSBURGH, PA

AJ RASSAU

BRIEF HISTORY: Historically Pittsburgh has always bred bands who have innovated styles that much of the rest of the scene tends to bite, ruin and then make a career out of. The people here aren't pretty. There's not a lot of us. We aren't that nice and we don't play the game... but we do write angrier, harder and better music than most of the world.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: On a bigger scale I am sure most people reading this are aware who Code Orange or Zao or Aus Rotten are. In my opinion (and despite the recent hype they've been receiving lately) I will always feel as though No Retreat, Built Upon Frustration, Enemymind and Gutrench are drastically overlooked in the hardcore sphere. Behind Enemy Lines and Caustic Christ are top tier punk bands who have certainly received some acclaim but should be viewed in the same light as Tragedy and His Hero Is Gone. Passover is a band who wrote the actual sickest Metalcore of all time back in 1996 and just recently started playing out again. Handful of relevant metal bands but we gotta rein this conversation in somewhere.

CURRENT BANDS: Pain Clinic are the scene vets getting out there and gigging everywhere in the region every weekend. Their debut full length will be out soon. Cemented In Fear is the main band of young kids getting out and touring currently. Signed to Unbeaten Records. Power Of Fear is a band that's been around for a minute but recently signed to Daze and is getting recognized around the area. Always some new bands popping up which is my favorite part of all of this.

SHOW SPACES: There's one place that makes sense for a hardcore show to happen and it's called Preserving Underground. It's the best hardcore venue in the country and possibly the world. Look it up. Come out. It won't last forever. Take it all in. Be a part of history.

RECORD STORES: Well now I just seem like a total egomaniac but the answer is once again my own place: Preserving Record Shop. You have to keep in mind though it's all just a result of me simply believing in the DIY mentality and actually putting my plans into motion. We had no good record stores (for hardcore or metal) so I made one. We had no cool venues so I made one. It's as simple as that. We're one of the best record stores in the country and easily the best for hardcore. We initially were inspired by the infamous NERDS Records in Tokyo and hold ourselves to Japanese record shopping standards. There's a small, cool spot called Pleasant Dreams that kinda specializes in punk and is great.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Man, I never make Thanks Lists in my albums because I'm always paranoid about missing someone. I hate to answer the promoter question because the answer is, once

again, me. I don't want it to be. I can't even list the number of people I tried to bring into the fold over the years. I want younger kids to step up and take the reins. Occasionally some kids step up and book shows but they typically last under a year or until the first time they lose money on a gig. This is my public call out for them to step it up and create the scene they want to have for themselves. I built a venue that you can rent for \$200 in 2024. Like... come on... There are many very notable promoters in the DIY Punk scene. I don't know the specifics on who does what as my own venue prevents me from going anywhere else but if memory serves me correct we got guys by the name of Dusty, Jimmy and maybe Adam who do wild things like Skull Fest and shows underneath bridges and shit. Props to them for keeping their section of the scene alive. They and their shows are always welcome here but most of the punks have a hard time making their way out of the city so I get it that they kinda just do their own thing. Pittsburgh is the home of Jeff from Start Today zine and label. Just look the guy up if you don't already know. I mean... he put out the Have Heart demo.. "Metal Mary" runs the only other cool venue in the city called the Shred Shed and takes on a lot of the underground and DIY metal shows.

SCENE STATUS: Hardcore is the best it's ever been since I started attending shows in 1999. There is now a venue (Preserving Underground) where information is very easily and readily available for anyone to obtain and attend any show they're interested in. The doors are open to essentially anyone. There's no ASK A PUNK, house show, social circle bullshit and that's why shows are thriving. I believe we average 15-16 shows a month here and we routinely get told by the touring bands it was their favorite spot on the tour. We don't have the population numbers to get the larger turnouts like you see in California but it's always been a quality over quantity vibe here. There's minimal drama and when someone truly steps over the line they get dealt with and/or expelled. There's very minimal passive aggressive cancel culture bullshit here. 5 years ago is when I started with Preserving Hardcore in the basement of the magistrate office next door to our current location. I think our cap for the venue was like 60 people over there. We now have three venues in one building that I bought and renovated the day before the COVID shutdowns. The Main Stage can hold up to 800 people, Preserving Underground can do 300 and we even have a DIY Room which can cram 75 kids in to keep the spirit of Preserving Hardcore alive.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

JIM SHOMO

BRIEF HISTORY: Too much to list, Philadelphia has a had a sick history in punk and hardcore dating back to the late 70s (Pure Hell, Joy Ryder & Avis Davis, Little Gentlemen) into the 80s with YDI, Flag Of Democracy, Sadistic Exploits. It's always been a rich diverse music scene that sort of favors the weirder side of things, I think it has something to do with being in between DC and New York as many people just don't give a shit what city you're from here. Through the 90s and 2000s there's been a huge DIY scene centered around houses and different spaces that change from place to place and many shows are centered around The First Unitarian Church, which is a long running DIY venue in a church basement that has been doing shows (all ages) for over 30 years at this point.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Pure Hell, Joy Ryder & Avis Davis, Little Gentlemen, into the 80s with YDI, Flag Of Democracy, Sadistic Exploits. In the 90s there were bands like Ink and Dagger, Kill The Man Who Questions, RAMBO. 2000s-2010s bands like Sickoids, Fuck SS, The Stasi, Blank Spell

CURRENT BANDS: Misanthropes, Phantom, KOS, CONDUMB, Psych War, Real Shocks, Body World, Nylon, Marathon 77, Dark Thoughts, Delco MF's, Gen Gap, Demonstrate and a few others I'm sure I'm forgetting.

SHOW SPACES: Most gigs lately have been centered around Cousin Dannys, Sanctuary, and Foto Club (Which I help book shows at), there were a fair amount of gigs at Haus of Yarga but I think it's getting shut down? There's also Common Beat in the west that just recently did a show for Identity Shock that went well. Hoping to have some newer places going soon.

FOOD/DRINK: I usually go to (all vegan options) Tattooed Moms, Pietramala if i'm feeling fancy, Unit Su Vege, Grindcore House, Dotties Donuts (both have great

coffee as well) And my legit favorite place to eat in Philly is Cafe Y Chocolate on Snyder, awesome Oaxacan food with vegan options.

RECORD STORES: Sit and Spin Records, Beautiful World Syndicate, Long in the Tooth all have decent options, I also like to peek into Mollys Books and Philadelphia record exchange if I have time to kill.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Too many to list but as far as flyer artists Renata Rojo, Danny Garcia are both killing it, as well as Izzy Maturana who also books sick gigs and plays in a bunch of bands. Brian Furrey is the regular photo documentarian of most gigs, as well as Chris Postlewaite from Body World. My boy Crity from Demonstrate is just a cool ass guy you might like to hang out with.

SCENE STATUS: I think it's honestly really good. There are a lot of new bands and people going to all kinds of shows, as a person who's a bit older in the scene (36) I feel like it's exciting to see the younger kids picking up the mantle and doing cool shit. Shows are up and down as there are just so many bands touring right now but they are definitely way more fun than they have been in past years so I'm looking forward to see where it goes in the next few years. I feel like it has improved a lot with places to play and generally just more people starting bands, it's good!

PARTING WORDS: PUNK IS SICK HARDCORE RULES



PHOTO: CHRIS POSTLEWAITE



PHILADELPHIA, PA

Saturday
August 10th 25 Dollars Doors 3:00 Bands 3:30



MINI-FORCE
NEVER ENDING GAME
SOUL SEARCH
COMBUST
FACE THE PAIN

Underground Arts 1200 Callowhill Street Philadelphia, Pa

A Bob Wilson Joint

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HARDCORE TILL CLOSE...**

BIG BOY
EXTINGUISH
WRECKAGE
ECHO CHAMBER
DEAD LAST

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
AT PHILLY'S OWN BONKS BAR
\$15 - 7 PM

THU OCTOBER 10
AT THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
PHILADELPHIA

TerroR
Cro-Mags

HAYWIRE



**FALSE
SALVATION**



BRIEF HISTORY: Philly has had shows dating back 40+ years. Places like Love Hall, The East Side Club, The Kennel Club, Club Pizazz etc all had bands like Bad Brains/Minor Threat/Negative Approach/Void etc etc come through. BYO was a huge deal early on bringing bands and shows together. Bands like YDI/FOD/Pagan Babies all played some pretty legendary lineups and despite us not really having a ton of "classic" bands we always had great show lineups, and there's still members from all those bands who come around who were there from the beginning. As has been said a million times we're kind of the fucked up midsection between DC and NY so from the start we have always had a chip on our collective shoulder about how other scenes get more recognition.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Philly doesn't have the quantity of crazy bands other scenes have had but like I said earlier, YDI from the start, Pagan Babies, FOD. We had bands like Starkweather, Ink and Dagger, All Else Failed that all brought something different to the table that other places didn't have. There were never really any popular "classic" sounding bands here but in the late 90s/00s Kid Dynamite/Blacklisted/Horror show/paint it black, turmoil if you count them as philly- all became big deals.

CURRENT BANDS: Scarab, Face the Pain, False Salvation, Staticlone, Hindsight, Last Man Out, Penalty, Shot Out

SHOW SPACES: As always the greatest venue on earth: The First Unitarian Church. A newer spot called The Palace. Bonks was the spot until they went 21+ so I had to stop booking there. West Kensington Ministry, Foto Club for the more punk stuff that comes through, same with Cousin Danny's. The Upper Darby VFW is starting to do more. The Lithuanian Music Hall, Ukie Club.

HANGOUTS: Triangle tavern for after show hangs usually. Rittenhouse Park is a good spot to meet up. Occasionally South Street. Bonks is still a good spot that people will go hang at.

FOOD/DRINK: The current best pizza and cheesecake spot is ANGELOS in South Philly, with Steve's Prince of Steaks and Joe's Steaks closely behind. Reading terminal has DINICS which is great roast pork. Villa di Roma if you're looking for some classy Italian food. 20th Street Pizza is a vegan spot owned by a straight edge vegan legend from the burbs who once let me borrow his entire cd book to

ROBERT TAYLOR WILSON IV

burn as many as i could for a month, and the only one he kept was Judge and said "I'm good with this" so support that spot. Hardena is great Indonesian food that has something for everyone. I don't fuck with coffee but people like Elixir/La Colombe/Grindcore/Reanimator etc.

RECORD STORES: SIT AND SPIN is the best record store on earth now that Doubler Decker is closed. The people that own it are great and always have crazy shit coming in. Can't recommend it more.

LOCAL CREATIVES: I do shows and do a label called REBIRTH RECORDS, JOE HXC still does a ton of shit and Ben Stuckey is crushing it with his shows. Catherine Carozza is the best current photographer from here and we have Sunny Hate5six. There's multiple great tattoo shops including Hard Times Tattoo ran by Mike Hooligan, Cresson Street Tattoo with OG Geoff Gavin. I'm gonna cheat and say Tyler Mullen is in our scene even though hes from DE and he's one of the best artists in HXC Punk to me. Lennon from Scarab/Face the Pain just did a great zine called "From The Ground Up" which is all about different sneakers from classic hxc band pics and he's one of the most creative people i know with art/flyers etc. Allison Davis always takes incredible pics and always seems to know the right moment to take one.

SCENE STATUS: Up and down. About a year or so ago there was a lot of unity among the younger kids and they would support each other/ every kind of show but due to typical scene drama its splintered and kids kind of separated into only things they specifically like so they don't have to interact with other people. We have great show lineups and there's always sick shit coming through but lately the support isn't what it should be and it's been frustrating. A lot of people only caring about beatdown and not much into the "classic" HXC sound, or people that were into cool shit devolving and getting into horrible scene music from the mid 00s. I love my scene but it's hard to not be disappointed in a lot of it lately so hopefully that turns around.

Pre-2020 it was frustrating in a different way. There were almost no young kids and the average age of a new kid was like 25. People were only into one or two bands from here they really loved and didn't support anything else. They gave no respect to bands that came before them, which on one hand I love, but also there has to be a balance and even though you don't have to love everything that existed before you you should have a respect for the ones who put you in position to be where you are today. One show I always point to is a No Tolerance show I did and maybe 70 kids paid. It drove me fucking insane. Post 2020 there was a huge influx of kids at the appropriate age they should get into HXC (teenager) which was awesome and I hadn't seen that in

probably about 15 years, so it was a much needed shot in the arm for Philly because it seemed like everyone just got older and more clueless prior to it. I have hope that the handful of kids that I think "get it" will be leading the charge and make the scene what it has the capability of being in the next few years. Hopefully a lot of the people causing drama will have finally moved on and figured out something else to do with their life. I would like to see kids push back on all the heavy shit and say this sucks, let's change it, cuz that's all it ever really takes is one group of kids to change it up. I'm worried that kids are so comfortable seeing bands behind barriers/supporting wack big venues will be even more normalized and there won't be a rush to find new DIY spots or do Punk rock shit and spit on big business HXC but we'll see what happens.

PARTING WORDS: I love Philadelphia Hardcore and hope the younger kids keep it going for as long as possible. Philly Straight Edge until I'm dead.



SCARAB PHOTO: ALLISON DAVIS





VADIM/WALK ALONE

CHIȘINĂU, MOLDOVA

BRIEF HISTORY: In '90s and '00 in Moldova specially in Chisinau was a pretty solid heavy underground music scene, a lot of good punk/ alternative/metal bands, too sad that mostly none of them made it to this day's, lot of cool death metal and grindcore acts. Me and my friends started a band in 2008, named Dead Years, it was short hardcore act that mostly influenced young people to start a small local hardcore scene in '10-s.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: AXIDENT, AUTIST, Molded Mess, Mogyla, мятежник, Abnormyndeffect
CURRENT BANDS: Walk Alone, Capslock.

NOTABLE CREATIVES: All my friends from 022HC :)

SCENE STATUS: With big regret Moldova's heavy underground scene now is mostly dead at this time. Not many active bands compared with last decade's. I guess the pandemic was some sure shot. Now we have some shows with mostly local bands and it happens not that regularly as I wish. Have to share some love for Ukraine HC in general, one of the best and influential hardcore scenes for us here. So many great bands and different kinds of sounds that were ahead of their time and most importantly always consistent of good dude's that we got connected with. Wanna mention bands like Leviathan, Bluesbreaker, Kingpin, Reminded, Aspire, Clearlight and lots of more. Always was an honor to share the stage with them. Now it's impossible because of war.

LITHUANIA

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Invazija, Bora (ex-Bramborak), Dr. Green, Turboreanimacija, Toro Bravo.

CURRENT BANDS: Toro Bravo, Netvarkoi, Tureto Sindromas, Manacles.

SHOW SPACES: We don't have a lot of places for Hardcore and Punk band concerts, the most popular D.I.Y. place 11x20, as well as club Narauti and cultural center Sodas 2123, there are occasional concerts in bars as well.

SCENE STATUS: It is there, but it is not big compared to the previous generation. It has been stable for the last ten years, concerts are held, there is little interest, but it is there.

ANDRIUS/PASIDARYK PAT'S RECORDS

TORO BRAVO PHOTO: Vilija Dagilyte



SRI LANKA

GIHAN MACKAY

It doesn't exist in Sri Lanka. Everyone here is more into metal and most of the people in the metal scene are rich kids or well off kids. And I feel the punk scene is more of a movement than a musical genre. And it's very much attached to the middle class or working class. I mean, I still don't have a good guitar or pedals and stuff. Most of the time we practice with studio equipment. And the new generation has a local music scene going on but it's not hardcore or punk scene. It's just a mother tongue related rock scene. It's a very radical artsy kind of scene, not sloppy in your face music. The closest scene to punk or hardcore was the thrash scene but that also died off. The working class in Sri Lanka doesn't have the time or the effort to continue doing music. The metal community is mainly dominated by the privileged class. There are less people talking about the struggles. If you are specific about punk and hardcore, Dispute is the only band because we are from that working class and we try to live up to it. Doing the band is continuously a struggle for us. We are now picking up the pieces because Covid and the Sri Lankan economic crisis hit us a lot. We had to find money to survive and work hard to bring some sort of living standards to ourselves before we could even afford to start the band again and start getting the gear ready and all.

BRIEF HISTORY: The Puerto Rican hardcore and punk scene has gone through a ton of ups and downs for almost forty years but it is still going strong thanks to the new influx of young people and a few scene veterans who care about high energy music that has something to say. It is a quite diverse scene, but the foundations of our sound come from bands who have taken inspiration from Basque and South American punk, East Coast hardcore, and everything in between. We used to have a few Oi and crusty power violence bands, but our signature sound in regards to hardcore is either leaning towards the heavy, metallic, and groove/breakdown heavy or faster, "youth crew" inspired hardcore. Punk bands usually tend to be either inspired by "rough around the edges" pop punk (think more Screeching Weasel and less NOFX) or street punk, but it is heavily influenced by the Spain/Argentina punk scene (Eskorbuto, Marela, 2 Minutos, Flema).

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Tropiezo, Cojoba, Esclavos Del Sistema, Unidos No, La Experiencia de Toñito Cabanillas, Juventud Crasa, Axion Dummy/First Failure, Garrapatas, Microbios, Refuerzo/With Open Force, Clear Convictions, Germen Social. Also metal bands: Encrypted, Organic Infest, Infectoria, Cardinal Sin, Sacrificio, Serpenterium

CURRENT BANDS: Ratas, Manra, Cold Times, Out Of Hand, Sábila, Montalva

SHOW SPACES: San Juan like El Local (Santurce), Club 77 (Rio Piedras), El Reflejo (Caguas), La Parroquia (Puerta de Tierra). It is mostly centered around the San Juan/Metro Area at the moment, but hopefully we can find spots in the East, West, and South of Puerto Rico to help those who can't make it out here to experience what our bands have to offer.

FOOD/DRINK: I don't drink or do drugs so I don't know or can't really recommend any bars or places to drink, snort coke/adderall/fentanyl or smoke pot. Maybe La Penúltima in Santurce if you want to chill while looking at hipsters or El Boricua in Rio Piedras if you want to get wasted. Some of my favorite food and coffee spots from people who are or have been involved in our scene in some way are Fidela and Café Común in Santurce, Revolution Pizza Shop in Luquillo, and The Breakroom in Hato Rey. As far as vegan places in San Juan go, they're mostly overpriced tourist traps. Unless you feel like spending \$12.00 USD on a vegan ice cream cone or \$14.00 USD on two bean tacos, avoid them and just get whatever vegan friendly options they might have (rice, beans, plantains, taro, etc) at a local Puerto Rican/Dominican cafeteria. If you're on a budget, Kenny's Pizza in Cupey, Panadería América in Hato Rey, and La Chulada in Guaynabo are amazing for the price.

RECORD STORES: Ojo De Tigre (Santurce), Odin's Court (Caguas).

LOCAL CREATIVES: José Ibañez from Tropiezo/Discos de Hoy has been a very important figure in hardcore, punk, and all things D.I.Y. in Puerto Rico. Leonardo Ramos from Leo Fotos Historia is a teacher and hardcore historian who has taken charge of making a real historical archive of our scene. Alejandro "Jandy" Medero and the Massa Brothers (David and Derek from D'Massa Productions) are some of the most important photographers and videographers in our scene right now.

PUERTO RICO

HÉCTOR LAGO



TROPIEZO PHOTO: Alejandro Medero Valentin

SCENE STATUS: It is weird. It has been great for the most part, but it's really unpredictable. Regardless of lineup or price, there's times where a lot of people will go to a show and it will be full from front to back and the next week only twenty heads might show up but those twenty kids will go hard and have a blast. There's a lot of things that might make people not want to go to a show outside of shitty bands, scumbag promoters/venues, or sketchy crowds, but it is really hard to say if people will show up or not to a show. Also, mainstream events/concerts do have a huge impact on the amount of people who might go to a D.I.Y. show. Don't expect any goths at your crusty punk show if Evanescence or Bad Bunny are playing that same night. I believe it is in a better state than five years ago thanks to a lot of young people who have taken a liking to our scene and want to do their best to support and make it grow. The past seven years have been a wild ride; from almost erasing everything we ever had due to two hurricanes, a massive earthquake, and the pandemic to a new breed of talented musicians, artists, and activists picking up the pace to make things right for everyone. I can honestly say I am proud of everyone who is actively doing their best to do things the right way and make sure everyone feels safe and welcome in our niche. I wish more people wouldn't be afraid to take a more active role, whether as musicians, artists, or people who could support our scene through various means and help build bonds of community, solidarity, and collaboration. I expect people to start embracing our weirdness and help others not be ashamed of being into "the devil's music" in one of the most religiously and politically conservative regions in the Americas. Considering how everything has been recently, I am cautiously optimistic for the future and if I can do anything to help our scene/people, I will.

PARTING WORDS: Don't take your scene for granted. Play what you want to hear. Do your best to speak up against sexual abusers, racists, homophobes, misogynists, scumbags, and people who try and take advantage of the good will of anyone who's part of our scene. Free Palestine. Free Puerto Rico.

BRIEF HISTORY: The bass player of OG 1977 Punk band The Zeros, Hector Panalosa, was born in Tijuana and that band's first gig ever was at a quinceañera in Rosarito, just south of TJ. In the late 70s punks would gather in Colonia Independencia. Some of the first wave bands were Sabotaje, R-27, Septima, and Los Negativos. When Los Negativos split, some members formed a new wave band called Mercado Negro and some formed the Hardcore Punk band Solución Mortal. Solución Mortal had tracks appear on BCT and ROIR in '83/'84 and played the famous international Punk show at the Olympic Auditorium in 1984 with Dead Kennedys, Reagan Youth, Riistetyt, BGK, and Raw Power. In 1989, a giant club in TJ opened called Iguana's. It hosted The Ramones, Bad Religion, Nirvana, Bad Brains, Agnostic Front and tons of others until closing in 1993. In the early 2000s Rene Espinoza started Fuerza Booking and started putting on Hardcore shows in TJ as well as helping bands from all over the world come to Tijuana and tour Mexico.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Sabotaje, R-27, Los Negativos, Septima, Solución Mortal, Espécimen, Turbulencia Kaotica, Kaos Subterraneo, Resistencia Radical, Cataris, Inextremis, Minoria Conciente, Muerte En La Industria, Kracneo, Coacción, Bumbklaatt, Discordia, Uprising A.D.

CURRENT BANDS: Habak, Violencia, Grayout, Truth Be Told (Mexicali), No Grata, Agonista, Writ, Ambergaze, Fire Mystical, Muerte en Aceite, The Red Awakening, Bumbklaatt, HKFY, Cánidos, Balacera.

SHOW SPACES: TJ is very much DIY so we play anywhere, but the two most played places in TJ are Moustache Bar (AKA Silenus Bar) and Black Box. These two and the legendary but horrible place that was You Revolution featured great bands (Death Threat, Earth Crisis, Terror, etc.)

HANGOUTS: Dude, we all hang in Downtown TJ (where most if not all the shows take place), it's a touristic place but we take what we can get, bunch of bars, lots of places to get food etc, I personally hang in Cacho, 10 minutes away from Downtown and hit some coffee shops and places to grub (shout out El Purista, Brot Pizza, McKbro, Montenegro, Páramo and Clever Coffee Shop)

EAT/DRINK: If you're near downtown, hit Clever Coffee Shop, dope coffee shop that is also a sneaker and streetwear shop. Earthbowl for all your vegan needs, Pizza Records has probably the best pizza in the city WITH vegan options (ask for the Morrissey pizza) If you're in Cacho, hit Brot Pizza, McKbro Burgers, en Telefonica Gastro Park for some good food and drinks if that's your thing.

RECORD STORES: Nuclear Waste Shop in Downtown. Fantastic selection of records and merch. A bit pricey but you can find some hidden gems for cheap.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Jannette de Los Reyes is a great videographer and journalist, she got a page called "B-side by Nomadas" which features bands and interviews them when they're around the city. I personally do a Zine called Immortal Weapon Fanzine, currently doing the Sixth issue for it. You can check it out on IG (@Immortalweaponzine). Gobi and Marco from Violencia book shows in TJ. Gerardo Rodriguez (@ge.rddz) is a fantastic videographer who helped

us out at the Anklebiter/Broken Vow show and it was so worth it hiring him to record the entire show. Hire him.

SCENE STATUS: It's been great honestly, we had a couple of bad years post pandemic thanks to someone who didn't get how Hardcore works here. If I can be honest for a bit, the Punk and Hardcore kids are a bit divided right now but hopefully with time they'll merge into one big scene again. We're not beefing with them or anything of the sort, it's just that they want shows a certain way and we want them in a different way I guess. 5 years ago we were in 2019, we were at a fantastic peak with a ton of bands from the states coming here, then the pandemic happened, bad shows started happening in 2021-23 due to a malicious person being in charge and Rene from Fuerza Booking taking a most deserving rest. Now, I'd say we're reaching a peak again, more shows are starting to happen, more new bands, more bookings, more passion. Not saying we as New Lords Booking are making a change but I think we started this at the right time after these bad couple years. TJHC is alive and well, sorry for all the dropouts who are missing out. Don't come back. Thanks to OG TJHC Lalo for the help on history.

TIJUANA, MEXICO

LUIS RAMIREZ



GRAYOUT PHOTO: @Sidevalldamned1904



BRIEF HISTORY: Although Mexico City (formerly the Federal District) concentrates much of the usual activity, one cannot deny the important role played by the periphery, and the areas of the State of Mexico that surround the city as an important part of the development of the circuit of the city. In the 80s there was a lot of gang movement where rock was mixed with the arrival of punk, which was well received by marginalized youth dissatisfied with their reality. This mixture resulted in a peculiar style both musically and in clothing. In those years there were also social movements, marches, and there was a very strong repression of youth following the events of October 2, 1968. This made the bands have a political charge in their lyrics, as well as getting involved in protests and forming collectives. In the mid-90s came the wave of hardcore (influenced by the NY style), and also punk rock with more digestible sounds similar to those made in Los Angeles mainly. Hardcore had a big peak in the mid 2000's and until around 2013, punk and hardcore punk has always been more constant. There has always been a constant and continuous renewal of people who feed the circuit. It is worth noting that the "tianguis cultural del chopo" born on October 4, 1980 has and continues to be a meeting point to sell, exchange music, find out about activities, make contacts, because within said tianguis is the "espacio Anarkopunk".

(anarchopunk space)

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Masacre 68, Histeria, Desobediencia civil, regeneración, herejía, SSS 20, to name a few.

CURRENT BANDS: Medusa, NTN, Elektra, Malcria, Acción nefasta, Dismorfia, Ironia, CRK.

RECORD LABELS/STORES: Cryptas Records, Cintas Pepe, Puercords, Algo discos, Discos Machete, Bam Bam Records, Illy Jocker, Venas Rotas Discos.

SHOW SPACES: Despite being a huge city, there are not many "established" spaces to play, but there is Gato Calavera, Mala Idea, and Foro el Miclan.

SCENE STATUS: There is always a lot of activity. There are gigs and meetings in places like the "Che Guevara" auditorium inside the Universidad Autónoma de México.

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

OMAR PARADA/PUERCORDS

Since 2016 the "Off Limits" festival has been held. Since 2023 the "Ciudad Maldita", the "Edge Day" has been resumed, and there are vegan bazaars. There is always some band from another state or another country passing through Mexico City. As in other places sometimes the local gigs are not so crowded, unlike some gigs with "famous" bands. Even so, the city does not stop!



DISMORFIA PHOTO: RAÚL MARTÍNEZ

BRIEF HISTORY: Being brief with something so significant is not easy but I will try to be as concise as possible. Both in Argentina and everywhere, the aspects of punk and hardcore come from metal and in turn from rock. To place ourselves specifically we would have to go to the beginning of the 80s where the first punk bands appeared and at the end of this decade skateboarding and the current of the west coast of the United States began to make their way into the sounds of those years, thus bringing what they were the first skate rock punk bands from Argentina. Bands like Los Violadores, Los Baraja and the compilation INVASIÓN 88 put punk at the top. Although as I said before, since the early years of the 80s there were many bands, not all of them managed to record or be as significant since the physical format in those years was what determined a certain prolongation of the activity even though the live activity was limited. At the end of the 80s bands like MASSACRE PALESTINA, RESTOS FÓSILES, DIVISIÓN AUTISTA, EXISTENCIA DE ODIO appeared (the latter with the typical NYHC sound) In this way we can affirm that they were the first to break away from the original traditional punk that sounded before and started what HC was in this country. Starting the new decade: 1990, all the bands that marked the milestone in Argentina arrived, forming a scene in Buenos Aires with a presence of shows with more than 1000 guys. Of course, in other provinces outside of BSAS there were also other gangs, but I always lived here, which is why I am going to centralize.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Buscando otra diversión (BOD), No Demuestra Interés (NDI), Diferentes actitudes juveniles (DAJ), Existencia de Odio (EDO), Confort supremo, Autocontrol, Vieja Escuela, Actitud de cambio, Sudarshana

CURRENT BANDS: Ritual, Stryker, Mil Caras, Dust to name a few. I know there are many more but I don't know all of them nor do I know all of their members to mention them.

SHOW SPACES: Bula, Casa Rincón, La cultura del Barrio, Salón Pueyrredón.

EAT/DRINK: I am quite critical of places and I am usually the point of complaint from my friends since I like almost nothing but I think that if you want to eat something good "gourmet" the right place is "GUILLE VEGGIE". Typical Peruvian food in Argentina and the best thing is that it is vegan, clearly otherwise I would not mention it. It seems to me that a good cafeteria is missing, since there are some but they are very "top" and it seems to me that there are things like coffee that should not be so exotic. In some ways I like simpler things and saying "let's go there, they sell good coffee and we can eat something vegan that isn't so sophisticated."

RECORD STORES: Yeah. I have currently been maintaining my store for 15 years: VEGAN RECORDS STORE. There is also Tienda Inerme and X EL CAMBIO RECORDS

LOCAL CREATIVES: Photographers: Fabricio Obljubek, Cristian Lois (CAL)

SCENE STATUS: The same as always. Many new bands, many new people which does not mean greater attendance. This is like simple sampling without replacement. Basically people who stop attending and new ones who arrive. There are always activities, bands, committed people.

PARTING WORDS: It is good that people know the things we do in Argentina. We have and continue to do a lot for the cause of animal rights and the search for social justice through music. We believe that there is still hope and that is why we continue in hc beyond the attractive sound that surrounds us and gives us strength.

**BUENOS AIRES,
ARGENTINA**

ALEJANDRO FABIAN RUIZ DIAZ

MIL CARAS PHOTO:
Florencia Alvarado



BRIEF HISTORY: In our region, the punk scene began in the mid-80s from the communes or neighborhoods of the area from Medellín where they shared a lot of bands with the metal scene, while the city took over the violence of drug trafficking in a fight with the Colombian government. Bands carried a message of change so that young people would not take the path of the deaths of a sad past, could escape from reality by making music, and be useful people for society. Later, in 1994, what we know as Hardcore arrived with new trends and influences more marked by New York Hardcore. Bands added to their lyrics more direct actions adding veganism, straight edge, religious and political approaches. Medellín is a point of reference even to several internal cities of our Colombia.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Grito, Reacción en Cadena, 5 de Menos, Kontraorden, Control, Acido Folclórico, Hate for Hate, Ácido Folclórico.

CURRENT BANDS: Grito, Real House of Hate, Control, NIX, En Contra de Todo, Renkore.

SHOW SPACES: In the city there is no specific or unique place for concerts, the truth is that they are played from north to south, and east to west, since in our city every corner that can be used to hold events such as bars, discos, outdoor events, houses, parking lots. There are concerts with the DIY philosophy.

FOOD/DRINK: In the center of the city there is a very recognized restaurant and yoga center called Govindas created by Hare Krishnas, which has been in operation for more than 25 years, many of those who frequented the place joined the scene forming Krishnacore bands and zines, so I can reference it where many Hardcore Kids got to go there, they even performed a couple of concerts, the other places that exist in the tourist places have varieties of menus, but they do not have a small reference or any approach with the HC as Govindas did.

RECORD STORES: Yes, we can refer to Monday Records and Del Carajo who are the young labels that have physically pressed several bands in the city. Under the DIY modality, Only Del Carajo itself has physical space and even has small concerts, giving many bands the opportunity to play. Its means of distribution is more personal: personalized deliveries, at concerts, or virtual sales. There are other labels of the Metal and Punk scene that also help to accommodate the Hardcore scene and vice versa. It should be clarified that these two genres have more time in the city and are also larger in musicians, followers, labels, etc.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters: Sudaka, FatCrew, Monday Records and Del Carajo.

SCENE STATUS: Currently the scene is lived in a quiet way. New projects have emerged and more trends have been added to the traditional ones. Now more

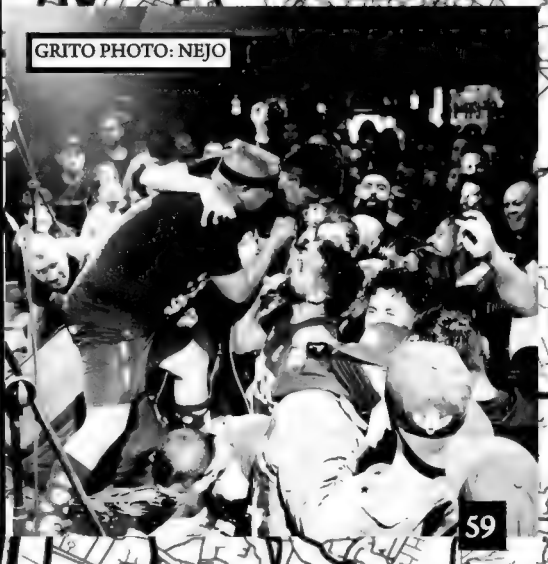
MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

RIGOBERTO ECHEVERRI

videos and more online reproductions of new albums are coming out, which makes new bands known. Shows are done frequently and the circuit has always been active. More and more international bands visit us and that is a plus. Colombia is a growing country where the music industry is on the rise, and now we can consume more products or have more references from foreign countries, so that has led us to now have more bands, perhaps cultural globalization. I see that there may be more local bands that can make underground circuits or tours to other countries, bringing more and more music to other countries.



GRITO PHOTO: NEJO



BRIEF HISTORY: Punk exploded in Lima in the mid 80s here with bands like Narcosis, Leusemia, Ataque Frontal, GX3, Autopsia, Descontrol, Kaos and Eutanasia to name some of my favorite ones. Out of all those bands only Leusemia and Ataque Frontal were able to put out vinyl in the '80s. All those bands have reissued their demo tapes on vinyl in the last ten years. Lengua Armada in the US released the Leusemia LP and the GX3 demo tape on vinyl some years ago worth checking out if you can find a copy.

CURRENT BANDS: Punk Terrorist, DHK Sistemas de Aniquilación, Kaos Endémico, Autonomía, Dios Hastio, and PTK. The last 3 have been around since the '90s and still play today. My favorite punk band here is called Morbo and they have some LPs worth checking out. You can usually see Morbo playing a couple times a month in different bars around Lima.

SHOW SPACES: Like most of the world there's always a lack of spaces for shows in the city but most of the Punk activity in Lima congregates around downtown Lima. There used to be a Squat called el Averno downtown that was around since the 90s but got evicted some years ago. I used to own a Punk venue/dive bar called Hensley from 2010 til 2020 here in Lima. Currently

LIMA, PERÚ

LUCHO

there aren't many spaces for shows but one I like is in downtown Lima called Poco Floro. It's an old house where punk shows happen about once every two weeks.

RECORD STORES: There are a couple distros here in Lima where you can find most of the local Punk. There is El Grito in downtown Lima and El Anexo and Barricada Discos in Miraflores.

FOOD/DRINK: Lima is the foodie capital of Latin America with tons of amazing restaurants all over the city from all different price ranges. Most serve ceviche and seafood but if you don't eat fish a great place to go is La Recontra in Miraflores, which is my favorite vegan place in Lima.



PUNK TERRORIST PHOTO: Luis Photos

BRIEF HISTORY: Compared to other countries, the punk and hardcore scene in El Salvador emerged in the early '90s, largely delayed by the civil war (1980-1992). In 1981, a band called Crisis, influenced by The Ramones, Sex Pistols, and Television, became one of the pioneers of the punk sound. A member who traveled to New York brought back those influences and formed Crisis, which gained some success, even touring Central America. However, there wasn't a punk scene at the time, and Crisis was short-lived. After the civil war ended, some kids who had traveled to the US were influenced by skate culture and punk rock. They brought back records, fanzines like Maximum RockNRoll and Thrasher Magazine, and passed them around. This sparked the formation of bands like Shock, Via Alterna, Los Chirilawers, and Adhesivo Punk around 1994. On Halloween night in 1998, El Salvador's first hardcore band, Maximo Rock&Roll, was born, considered the pioneer of the hardcore scene. They were active until 2001, and after their drummer left, they reformed as Firme Decision, the country's first straight edge band. From there, other hardcore bands like Razon de Matar, Tiempos de Juventud, Inhumanoiz, Tiempo de Cambio, and En Defensa Del Honor emerged. The hardcore scene in El Salvador has had its ups and downs.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: I would say Firme Decision is the most influential band, with Perseverancia also being notable. These bands have inspired many others, including myself, to form new bands.

CURRENT BANDS: Ignition, Sentencia, Toma El Riesgo

SHOW SPACES: Buho's is probably the venue that has welcomed the most local bands. It used to be called La Luna Casa y Arte, which was a very cultural and essential spot for music after the war. I have great memories from that place, and it still looks much the same as it did in the '90s.

HANGOUTS: Buho's, a skate park in Zacamil, and Plaza Paz are the most common places.

FOOD/DRINK: For coffee, there are several great specialty spots like Crafters, Ok Let's Munch, Rustik, Carajo, and La Biblioteca Cafe. If you're looking for vegan or vegetarian food, try El Veggie SV or Mike's Burgers, which offers some vegan/vegetarian options and is run by the drummer from Firme Decision.

RECORD STORES: There aren't many dedicated punk or hardcore stores, but there's a record shop called Secret Vinyl Society that has a selection of punk and hardcore records. It can be a bit pricey since most of the records are imported from Europe, but I've found some great deals, including records for as low as \$15. I run a small record label (Break Even Records) and produce short-run lathe cut records to document local music and bands, so I sell records from time to time as well.

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

JOEL RODRIGUEZ

LOCAL CREATIVES: Victor (promoter) from Psycho Youth, Bryan Portillo, Menly Cortez (photographers).

SCENE STATUS: As I mentioned, unfortunately, there isn't much happening in El Salvador right now. Most bands trying to book shows here struggle because it's risky and expensive for promoters to arrange international shows. Local interest in forming new bands is also low, which is unfortunate. Since COVID, the scene has been quite dormant. We've had some bands come through, like Xibalba and Comeback Kid, but I'm hopeful that new kids will eventually step up and revitalize the scene. Five years ago, El Salvador had one of the strongest scenes in Latin America. It even hosted the first Latin American Edge Fest, which featured bands from Central and South America like Raw Brigade, Billy The Kid, Inersia, and Dumah. I hope to see more bands and young people getting into hardcore, with more people booking shows, creating, and expressing themselves.



TOME EL RIESGO PHOTO: PUNK ROCK MAG @PUNKROCK_MAG

BRIEF HISTORY: Punk entered Costa Rica in the late 70s but with few people listening to it. Without access to equipment, or any gear to play or even record, there's not a lot of evidence of underground scenes. There were some parties in those days and clubs that made punk parties. The first band started around mid '80s named LSD but when they recorded they had to change their name because the pressing/studio wouldn't record them with a drug name. They changed it to La Banda De La Banana and did a single in 1989. Then in the mid '90s there were punk bands very influenced by hardcore and skateboarding. It is a very small country but has been very active in the punk scene in recent years. With easy access to instruments and DIY recording techniques, more kids and bands are venturing into forming new punk bands since the 2010s. With Hardcore specifically, it is a little different. The 00's and 10's were very prolific for the hardcore scene. A bunch of people influenced by the new wave of American and European

Hardcore/metalcore/deathcore started forming bands.

By that time, Alejandro from Destiny Recordings was booking shows left and right; Comeback Kid, Terror, Bane, Lagwagon, Evergreen terrace...you name it!

NOTABLE OG BANDS: X-Causa, Golpe de Estado, Solocarne, Malditos de Verde, Seka, UFO, Codigo Penal, Ablaze the Embers, Inersia, Billy the Kid, Confrontacion, etc,

CURRENT BANDS: Barrakas, Fe Nefasta, Enemigos Del Enemigo, Punto Konfliktivo, Xpunkha, Dvmah, Wise up, plagas, Living end, Sigo Aquí, sideways, Angustia Espiritual, Dystt, Adios Verano, Molt and lentamente, Los Cuchillos, Ave Negra, GCC, Los Esquizoides, Odio Eterno, Ladrona, Ardid, Mentalidad Ausente, SUWO, Barrakas, Noche and Enemigos del Enemigo, Bastardos Oi, The Agrios, Disturbio Callejero.

SHOW SPACES: Unfortunately venues are scarce. There used to be cool/fucked up venues in the past like Latino Rock Cafe in Barrio La California, or the legendary Capone Bar located in El Pueblo. I was able to catch Misfits, Agnostic Front and most Hardcore and Punks band from that era in those two venues. Nowadays, there are more people dedicating their time and venues to the underground like Bar La Linea / Starview, ran by a US citizen who let us do shows without any down payment or anything. Also, Amon

SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

ANDY/ESPASMO NERVIOSO RECORDS

Solar, an old mansion turned venue/bar, and El FECOU (Frente Ecologista Universitario), a little room inside of the University of Costa Rica Buildings, where anarcho vegans, animal rights supporters, and students will gather and lend us the place for DIY gigs. Of course there are bigger venues who will take 50% of the door money and charge huge amounts for backline and P.A, leaving the small Punk and Hardcore bands without anything.

EAT/DRINK: Barrio Escalante in San Jose became a gastronomical neighborhood in recent years. You can get a cup of coffee, have a vegan meal, or a gourmet steak. Currently there are some amazing vegan options around San Jose, Heredia, and Cartago (the 3 main cities). Places like Vegan Noise, La Esquina Vegana, Mr Veggio, Huacamole and Asian places like Soda Susbida, Meylai Wa just to name a few.

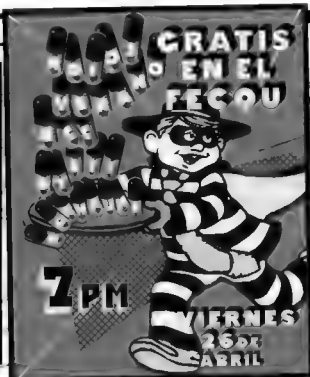
RECORD STORES: Nightfall, Twistin bones - run by Arnoldo (Los Cuchillos, Ave Negra, Ardid)

SCENE STATUS: It is growing and is probably the biggest it has been in the past 20 years. More bands, more gigs, more people involved, and the ease of access to gear and recording equipment changed the game for sure. Now more people dare to start a band with their friends and venture into more serious songwriting, recording, and playing outside of the country. The music scene as a whole is growing with more exposure on Central American bands. It has definitely opened the doors for us in recent years and this will continue for the following years, with people turning their attention to Costa Rica and Central America.

PARTING WORDS: Thanks for your interest in our small country and our people and music. Usually the only big thing in Costa Rica is the metal scene. Hopefully this will change and we see the Hardcore/Punk scenes like our brothers in Mexico and Colombia that are huge!



DYSTIT PHOTO: @galeria_de_chivos



MANAGUA, NICARAGUA

AXEL O'CONNOR

BRIEF HISTORY: The first hardcore band in Nicaragua was called Option. They stood out because it was a female vocalist and its ideology was Christian Hardcore. They began to play around 2006 to 2010 together with other Christian hardcore bands at that time. From there was born the first band in the country with a totally different ideology in Nicaragua of positive hardcore without mixing any religion, but giving a message of overcoming and always growing in oneself to achieve any goal or dream, using a phrase "if you want to do something do it yourself." The band was NUESTRO HONOR HC and they played from 2014 to 2019. They also organized events on their own with the intention of promoting more positive Hardcore in the country and in Central America, uniting scenes such as punk, deathcore, and metalcore to create unity in concerts. They had a lot of support from people, as well as from many bands in the country, local radio stations, and television channels with the goal of always promoting the Hardcore genre throughout the country.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: OPTION, Nuestro Honor, Punto 5, Q69k, CONTRATIEMPO

CURRENT BANDS: Rexugir, Nuestro Honor, Q69k

SHOW SPACES: The current places to play are more like rock bars than before. A very well-known place has been the bar called Ron Kon Rola or Zona Hippo or Pizzeria Rock Munchis that lends us the place to play.

LOCAL CREATIVES: The first promoters of hardcore events in Nicaragua were Josh Brenes and Jorge Flores as members of the Option band who organized hardcore events from 2006 to 2012. I was the second organizer of Hardcore events from 2014 to 2019. Organizers of punk events have been Roberto Cisneros member of the band CONTRATIEMPO and Erwin Costa member of the band Q69k.

SCENE STATUS: The current state of the punk hardcore scene is somewhat low due to the socio-political situation of the country since many members of the scene and bands have left the country but there are new bands rising the Hardcore Punk scene. To compare how it was 5 or 10 years ago we have to talk about the situation in the country because that influenced a lot the change in the music scene



NUESTRO HONOR PHOTO: ERNESTO SALCEDO

in our country because the political situation in the country was very ugly and bad because for that reason many members of bands, people from the Punk and Hardcore scenes among other genres have made the decision to emigrate to other countries for a better change in their lives. For that reason the scene 5 or 10 years ago was better, there were more people supporting local bands and events, it was a nice unit where we could feel at home to express our ideas and passions for music. Today, those of us who have stayed in the country try to raise the hardcore scene for the future generation to learn what we have done in the past and that they can continue the history of hardcore in Nicaragua. I believe that the scene in 5 years will be able to rise more as long as it has clear values and convictions of what hardcore really is and always give a good message to the people.

BRIEF HISTORY: The punk scene in São Paulo goes back to the late 70's. Like other parts of the world, misfits and disenfranchised kids heard the echoes coming from the US and the UK and related to it very quickly. Despite the laid back, beach, tropical stereotypes associated with Brazil, São Paulo is a huge, grey industrial megalopolis that, at the time, was still under an authoritarian military regime. Plus the city's working class neighborhoods were full of "rocker" gangs who were into heavy rock like the Stooges, Black Sabbath and Alice Cooper and dressed in jeans and leather jackets. As soon as they saw and heard the first Ramones album, it rang a bell and they became punks. By 1982, already in the hardcore era, there were dozens of bands, zines, shows, and São Paulo became probably the biggest "third world" punk scene at the time. Records came out by bands like Olho Seco, Inocentes, Cólera and Ratos de Porão eventually became well known outside the country as well and the rest is history.

A lot happened in the following decades and to this day São Paulo still has a vibrant, productive punk scene with all the subgenres and factions you can imagine. There are ups and downs, but we keep going, like everywhere I guess.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Olho Seco, Inocentes, Cólera and Ratos de Porão, Mercenárias, Armagedom, Psykoze, Fogo Cruzado, Garotos Podres. 90's/2000's: Point of no Return, Discarga, I Shot Cyrus, Infect, Rot, Dominatrix.

CURRENT BANDS: Falsa Luz, Obsolescion, Joker, Arize, Stomp, Malditos Jovens do Reggae, Urutu, Primeiros Sintomas, Inês é Morta, Deafkids, Dente Canino

SCENE SPACES: We recently lost our best venue, Associação Cecília. It was broken into a bunch of times and they decided to call it quits after over 10 years. There are still some cool places, like Porta, Fenda, Laje, Fffront, plus Hangar 110 which is the traditional venue for bigger punk gigs. And 74 Club in Santo André, which is technically not in São Paulo, but in the ABC region - an industrial area outside São Paulo - but close enough and a great place.

HANGOUTS: Currently there aren't any specific places, but historically "Galeria do Rock", which is a gallerya downtown full of record stores. It's where Fabio, the singer of Olho Seco opened his store, the legendary Punk Rock Discos in 1979. Punk Rock Discos became the catalyst for the development of the local scene until it was kicked out of the gallerya by some other store owners who hated the punks. But at least until the 2000's it was a place where you could meet punks basically any time.

FOOD/DRINK: There are probably dozens of vegetarian/vegan restaurants in São Paulo. The ones more connected to hardcore/punk kids are probably a cool punk owned vegan burger joint called Salad Days and Lotus, a Taiwanese vegetarian buffet where you'll always find hardcore people.

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

PEDRO CARVALHO

RECORD STORES: Yes, three important ones are SUB Discos and Extreme Noise in Galeria Nova Barão and The Scream in Galeria do Rock.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Photographers: Regis Bezerra, Corpo Expandido, Shindaari. Promoters: Coletivo Verdurada, Festival Hardcore SP, Jaguatirica Clube

SCENE STATUS: There's a lot going on. As I mentioned before, there are many different punk scenes in the São Paulo area, so it's hard to keep track of everything. But there's always something going on, lots of different shows every week and more bands than I can remember. I would say that before the pandemic the punk scene was getting old, very few younger people were involved. Now there's a whole new scene of younger kids, some in their teens even, who are starting bands, organizing shows and putting their own spin on things, which is great. I count on the youth to make it their own and change things for the best.



DENTE CANINO PHOTO: @CORPOEXPANDIDO



NORTHEAST BRAZIL

DUDU

BRIEF HISTORY: The Northeast Region of Brazil has always had a strong cultural side, in spite of being a region punished by environmental issues and economically disadvantaged, the Northeasterners have always drawn "milk from a stone" and stood out in the arts and culture scene. Starting with the hardcore/punk subculture niche, as it is a large region, made up of nine states (Bahia, Sergipe, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte, Ceará, Maranhão and Piauí), some of which have a large territory, thus providing immense cultural diversity, which ends up being the face of each point in the northeast, with its particularities. The fact is, the hardcore scene in the Northeast added and continues to add a lot to the national hardcore/punk scene, with bands from the beginning of the punk scene to the present. "Neither better nor worse, just ourselves" is a phrase that well defines the hardcore/punk scene in the Northeast, which despite being part of the national scene, has its peculiarities and its own identity.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Grillus Sub (State: Ceará/1984), Karne Krua (State: Sergipe/1985), Zueira (State: Ceará/1986), Disunidos (State: Paraíba/1987), Discarga Violenta (State: Rio Grande do Norte/1988), Devotos (State: Pernambuco/1988), Bosta Rala (State: Bahia/1990), Estrago (State: Maranhão/1990), Misantropia (State: Alagoas/1991), Pastel de Miolos (State: Bahia/1995).

CURRENT BANDS: Bahia: Lasso and Orelha Seca; Sergipe: The Renegades of Punk and Nucleador; Alagoas: Rãivã and Em Conflito; Pernambuco: Pexera and Subversivos; Paraíba: Rotten Flies and Sistema Brutal; Rio Grande do Norte: Born to Freedom and TvKills; Ceará: Facada and Dammn Youth; Maranhão: Basttardz and Quebrada Violenta; Piauí: Cianeto HC and Escroto.

LESSO PHOTO: MATHEUS SILVA



SHOW SPACES: Blá! Blá! Blá! Arte&Cultura (Bahia), O Bardo Pub (Bahia), Freedom Rock Tattoo (Sergipe), Taberna Rock Bar (Sergipe), Espaço Poesis (Pernambuco), Metal Beer (Pernambuco), not to mention the good old street, occupied as a way of direct action, as concert halls do not usually make space for hardcore/punk bands.

VEG FOOD: In gastronomic terms, if you want to eat cruelty-free food you can't miss BVegan, located in Salvador-Bahia, in the Barra neighborhood and Rango Vegan, in the same city and located in the Santo Antônio além do Carmo neighborhood. In Sergipe, in the city of Aracaju-Sergipe, you can order, for delivery, treats from Om Shanti and similarly, in the city of Natal-Rio Grande do Norte there is Delectus Veg, all the initiatives mentioned are from people involved in the underground scenes of their cities, directly or indirectly.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Ivo Delmondes (Sergipe), Thainá Dayube (Bahia), Rafael Carvalho (Bahia) and Diogo Galvão (Paraíba), who are responsible for a large part of the flyers and arts for bands in their localities.

SCENE STATUS: As Rodrigo Gagliano (Lasso) once said: "The hardcore scene in the northeast is everyone in the same boat, doomed to sink." There is no prospect of growth and as it is off-axis, located in the southeast region of Brazil, it is invisible to the rest of the country. It's a ghetto scene, where it is sustained, or at least should be sustained, with exchanges between the northeastern states themselves. However, it maintains the tradition of forming good bands and having an audience, if not large, at least participative. And it has always been like this, it has always been a scene of ups and downs, but never without any kind of movement. For periods of time, new bands appear, others reappear, the public has a turnover, although some people remain active throughout the years, and what matters is that the flame never goes out. Sometimes mild, other times flaming, but never extinguished.

PARTING WORDS: It is necessary to highlight that this is just a view of the northeastern scene. Given its plurality and heterogeneity, if you ask each individual, from each state, about their vision of the scene, you will certainly get completely different answers.



RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

GUILHERME KIRK

BRIEF HISTORY: I was born in 1998, so I believe my view of the Rio de Janeiro scene is much more connected to the period I've lived through and what some older people have shared with me. As far as I know, punk in Rio emerged in the early 80s in synergy with what was happening in São Paulo. The Rio scene has always been very heterogeneous, with bands from all subgenres of punk, often sharing the same circuits as metal bands. I think that because it's a relatively smaller scene, heavy music circuits tend to unite in a DIY spirit, having fewer strictly aesthetic divisions. But like any scene outside the mainstream, it has always been connected to what was happening outside Brazil, for example, in the late 90s/early 2000s, Rio de Janeiro also followed the trend of metallic hardcore, with close ties among bands from Rio, Baixada Fluminense, and Serra.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Confronto, Reajuste, Solstício, Norte Cartel.

CURRENT BANDS: Sangue de Bode, Dia de Greve, Austeria, Litão, Klitória, Clava.

SHOW SPACES: Audiorebel, Hanói, Vizinha 123, Heavy Beer Bar, O Pecado Mora Ao Lado Bar, Garage (Central) Gato Negro Pub, Taverna do Troll Pub (Baixada Fluminense), Barricada, Roxx, Neu!, São DomDom (Niterói and São Gonçalo)

HANGOUTS: A lot of us hangout at Jôia, a traditional chinese food restaurant in Rio's central region.

FOOD/DRINK: If you're a party person go to Lapa or Baixa Botafogo where you can find some bars, karaokes and clubs. I'm not really a coffee sommelier, i usually just drink whatever they have at the nearest place, but if i have to mention a fancier place i'd recommend Dainer.

In Rio we have some local good options that are vegan/vegan friendly such as Magna and Vegano da Tijuca (Brazilian Vegan Food), also Veganti Burger and O Forno Rio (they have vegan pizzas).

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters: Aline (Submersa Produções), Matheus (Espaço Barricada), Roque (Breu Produções), Luciano (Tomarrock Produções), Léo (Noise Stage), Vitor (Descalabro)

Photographers: @vitr00 @valverdemarfotos @registrxs @melopunx

SCENE STATUS: I believe that we're living a reflex of the hardcore growth that began after the COVID pandemic. A lot of younger people are interested and showing up at shows, booking shows, starting bands. I think it is really renewed. I really believe we're just in the beginning of a hardcore scene growth in Rio. Things are still getting better, hopefully.



PHOTO: @333333z6



BRIEF HISTORY: Well, to enter this context I must say that in Ecuador punk and hardcore were born in the late 80's and early 90's. One of the most important bands so far that are still in force are NO TOKEN from Guayaquil. In my country it is still a very small scene, however, it has maintained itself over time and I think we have a very solid scene for the same reason.

Ecuador is a very culturally rich country and I truly believe that if we had greater exposure the bands from here could grow much more or become mainstream.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Custodia, Punto de Encaje, Oponente Interno, Nada a Cambio, Prevalecer, xHomelessx, Lesnar, Sin Retorno, Conflicto, Sentencia de Muerte, Zabandijas de la 18, Holguer Quinonez, Sarcoma, Descomunal, Muscaria, No Token, Acto de Violencia, Xkary, Guanaco, Andy Novem, 38 que no juega, El Bloque, Tanque, Sudakaya, Spiritual, Kanhiwara, Organización Criminal, The Calicuts, Zaly, Hologramas, Mortal Decisión, Curare, Viuda Negra, Mortero, Cafetera Sub, Los Barrelshots...

CURRENT BANDS: Nada a Cambio, xHomelessx, Conflicto, Prevalecer, Oponente Interno, Custodia, Sin retorno, Sentencia de Muerte.

SHOW SPACES: Buenaventura, Soundgarden

RECORD STORES: LAVA RECORDS. My label G3 Records bought albums for a while but I couldn't continue. What I have done is support independent bands to release their albums.

Another store is a friend's shop called GORILA DISCOS, but it is only digital.

I recommend, if you come, to write to the local bands and they will know how to guide you to find music and get to know the local scene.

LOCAL CREATIVES: photographers and managers: Diana Cevallos, Samuel Sanchez, Wantan Frito, Juan Fernando Mera, Kevin

SCENE STATUS: Well, the scene is active. I feel like there is a before and after, post-pandemic. Although it is somewhat small, the truth is it is a very solid scene. We hope that as time goes by we can have more people join the scene. Pre-pandemic it was something else, because people were very connected to the scene. Now it is returning. I very much hope that there will be more bands, that they will continue creating independent labels and that more shows will be managed.

ECUADOR

CHESTER/G3 RECORDS

SOMOS OVERGROWN

INAUGURACIÓN

- EXPOSICION DE ARTISTAS INVITADOS
- VENTA DE PRINTS
- INTERCAMBIO DE STICKERS
- FERIA DE EMPRENDIMIENTOS
- WALKIN TATTOO
- VENTA DE COMIDA Y BEBIDA
- CERVEZA ARTESANAL
- CONCIERTO DE CIERRE

PREVALECEER

NADA A CAMBIO

HOMELESS

DESDE LAS **11:00 AM**

CORUNA Y MANUEL ITURREY

17 AGOSTO



CUSTODIA PHOTO: @ROCKSHOWFRAMES

TORONTO, CANADA

GREG BENEDETTO

BRIEF HISTORY: Punk happened here the same time it happened in NYC, London, LA etc. There have been bands rockin' since the '70s. So, it started with the likes of the Viletones & the Diodes. There were DIY spaces, stores for punks etc. And then when hardcore started becoming a thing, you got the likes of Young Lions, Youth Youth Youth, Negative Gain etc. Crossover happened, many of the hc players went metal or tried to. Then, as the 90s rolled around, the downtown scene saw punk rockers go alt. But in Hamilton, 45 minutes from where I am, Chokehold became a thing and that kind of set off a whole suburbs scene. Chokehold was a jump off for a lot of 90s hc in North America and doesn't really get their due imo. And yeah so Chokehold begat Grade, who then basically invented hardcore inflected pop punk for better or worse (tracks) and that changed the trajectory of hc world wide. The counterpoint to the Grade thing, eventually became No Warning. Arguably the first band to do the NYHC thing not from the NYHC area, and they got the sign off. After / around the same time as NW you got Career Suicide, who were one of the first bands in the 00s to revive classic USHC. CS begat Fucked Up, who then made hardcore go indie, and their roadie started Urban Blight. That kind of gets you to an era where I'm too involved to tell the story myself I guess!

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Viletones, The Diodes, The Ugly, The Poles, Youth Youth Youth, Direct Action, Young Lions (get the TOHC '83 Comp), Slaughter, Chokehold, Grade, Shoulder, No Warning, Career Suicide, Fucked Up, Urban Blight, School Jerks, Kremlin, Violent Minds.

CURRENT BANDS: Terminator, Best Wishes, Wild Side, Lice, Friction, Ethereal Tomb & Mile End, S.H.I.T.

SHOW SPACES: Seescape (small room w a stage) & Toronto Style (dive bar with a wicked staff). Some people have been firing up the old United Steelworkers Hall space, which is a cool vibe. Bigger shows are a bit of a crap shoot at the moment.

FOOD/DRINK:

COFFEE: Sam James & Capital. **BOOZE:** Low Bar. **FOOD:** Matty's Patty's, Maker Pizza, Cafe Rang, Prime Seafood Palace, Island Foods, Alpha's, Crown Pastries.

RECORD STORES: Emissions, Rotate This

LOCAL CREATIVES:

ART: Matt aka Youth & Rust, Lia Lepre. **AUDIO ENGINEERING:** Matt Tomasi/Jake Balla (The Concrete Smile). **PROMOTERS:** Jamie Fastlane/Matt Tomasi. **PHOTOS:** Fab Moreira, Vicky Mahony, Hansi/@analogdigitalobscurity. **ZINE:** Rate of Decay. **RADIO:** Stephe Perry/Equalizing Distort

SCENE STATUS: I feel like shows are bigger than ever, or at least the last couple of years have been post-covid. That said, things have def slowed down since their peak. Now, then again, I'm doing a Speed

show in a warehouse soon which will def be the biggest no barrier show I've ever seen in Toronto ever? But I feel like small gigs are also getting smaller. Weird time. I've been at it since the dark ages of the 00s, so everything feels HUGE now, but it's also starting to feel like the 00s again in a real weird way. Lots of new-ish bands, but not a lot of connection to the past. And there's nothing worse to me than hardcore that doesn't KNOW hardcore. People won't roll out for just anything anymore again. The scene is also way more Hardcore Hardcore, way less Hardcore Punk. As the Joint Custody crew claims, all Hardcore is NYHC now. I don't disagree, and it's like that here. But it's like, watered down as hell. No Warning were obsessed with NYHC and it showed in their songwriting. We don't got that here atm. That said, more people are doing things, putting on gigs, getting involved etc. Here's hoping the new dark age doesn't see people questioning their commitment. In the future, I hate to say it, but there'll probably be a ton of bands not playing hardcore, made up of people who cut their teeth playing hc. And we'll be in all new venues. Same as it has ever been. The real ones will still be around. The fakes won't!

PARTING WORDS: Hardcore still lives - if you do it yourself!

BEST WISHES PHOTO: ALICE HIRSCH



BRIEF HISTORY: Vancouver has a storied history of Punk that is pretty well documented by people more qualified than me. I'll keep it short and sweet, we invented "Hardcore". You're welcome.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: DOA, Pointed Sticks, The Smugglers, Strain, Rebel Spell, Black Halos, The Jolts (underrated), Daggermouth, Go It Alone, Blue Monday, Keep It Clear

CURRENT BANDS: Bootlicker, Chain Whip, JUICE, Alien Boys, Second Nature, Punitive Damage

SHOW SPACES: Punk shows are mostly happening at a cool space called Green Auto and the old Video Inn/New Redgate. Most all ages HC shows are happening at Bully's in New West. (a suburb 25 minutes south east of Vancouver)

FOOD/DRINK: Cool spots to eat in Vancouver (All are Vegan or cater to vegans): To Live For Bakery, Cartems (Donuts), Good Dogs (Food Truck), MeeT in Gastown, Nuba, Budgies Burrito, Po Kong. I really like JJ Bean coffee

RECORD STORES: No Future & Neon Taste are the punk ones. Neptune, Red Cat and Audiopile have a great spread of all kinds of music.

LOCAL CREATIVES: @Oatmilk &

@Faerie_gothfather have been doing a great job documenting Vancouver HC for the past few years.

The guys from Second Nature & a mourning star book shows in the Vancouver area through Here and Now Booking. I really like

@TommyWilsonDesign art, Jesse Gander makes amazing records at Rain City Recorders. Punitive

VANCOUVER, CANADA

CZECHO



Damage recorded there earlier this year.

He also made my favourite split 7" ever.

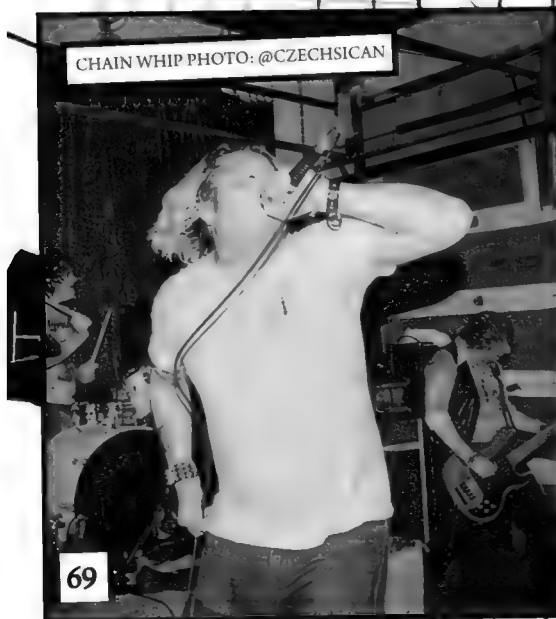
Go It Alone/Blue Monday

SCENE STATUS: Vancouver is currently doing really well, the shows are consistently packed. More than at any time I can remember. 5 years ago we were in the middle of a pandemic, so it's way busier now. Canada was pretty stringent, almost no shows happened. Now there's multiple shows a week, and almost all are well attended. I'm curious to see how things look in 5 years.

Hardcore is so "big" right now, I find myself wondering if we're on the cusp of another Rancid/GreenDay style bubble, or are we in the middle of it? Hopefully a revival of fast Hardcore

PARTING WORDS: The flyer attached is pretty special. Vancouver doesn't put out a lot of capital H - Hardcore LPs (TJ from Puni and I counted MAAAYBE like 25 since DOA), and JUICE is easily one of the best bands in the city, so it was a big deal! Also, Bad Religion - "How Could Hell Be Any Worse" is not only a HC record. It might be a perfect HC record.

CHAIN WHIP PHOTO: @CZECHSICAN



JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

SHAUN/WE DID THIS RECORDS



17 MAY **SMOKING KILLS** (JHB)

ENTRANCE: R100

LEFOKOLODI | GRIFT
MEANXGIRLS
COSMIC FIEND
MARIGOLD (DJ)



BRIEF HISTORY: This is a tough one. The scene started in the late 70s and early 80s in Durban and Johannesburg, and has been dying out and reviving ever since. The scene has been relatively small at all times due to it being underground. There's usually been a bit of a dominant style at any one time but diversity and sub-scenes are usually present. From crust, street punk, dbeat, ska, hardcore, post hardcore and more alternative punk sounds. We had the whole christian hardcore thing that was big when I got into the scene and still exists in one or two bands. Hardcore bands presently are more on the nihilistic metallic hardcore and blackened hardcore side of things. We even had a folk punk scene. Currently the trend is more on the garage punk and post punk vibes.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: There's a documentary called Punk In Africa that goes through a lot of the notable OG Durban bands. We are also working on a film in our spare time that will hopefully add a bit to filling up the gaps, but currently I would mention Outrage and Skelm Helm for crust. CONQUEROR HC for Jozi hardcore. Fuzigish for ska, and The Make-Overs and Sticky Antlers for noise rock stuff.

CURRENT BANDS: My current picks would include but would not be limited to: Twenty One Children (Soweto Punk), Lefokolodi (Skate Punk), Peasant (Hardcore), The Talon (Hardcore), MEANXGIRLS (Hardcore / Melodic Hardcore), Hated Related (Alternative Punk), Sextape (Garage Punk / Post Punk), Cistamatic (Grunge Punk), and Grift who are a great new hardcore band. No recordings yet but you can see some live stuff from shows on their instagram.

SHOW SPACES: In Jozi my favourite spot currently is Smoking Kills. I would say the most fun shows are there and other than that Sowaar Bar in Pretoria is really welcoming. Then any other venue, bar or hall we can rent. A lot of places closed down during COVID so we aren't very picky.

FOOD/DRINK: Again a lot of places closed down from COVID but if you can find a Lekker Vegan, they do great vegan junk food, I think one spot is still open.

RECORD STORES: There are some vintage alternative ones like Revolution records in Cape Town, but you can find Fugazi records at some hipster hole in the wall spots.

LOCAL CREATIVES: There's Noisefix in Cape Town that focuses on hardcore and touring. My thing (We Did This Records) which is kinda all over the place and not as focused. A good photographer would be @stellateleur on instagram.

SCENE STATUS: The state is Hopeful i would say. Whereas my bands and lots of others kinda died due to the pandemic there is quite a big resurgence with a lot of new people and new bands. I would say there is less of a 'dying scene' feeling. More diversity and more energy to do things.

PARTING WORDS: We have some mixtapes on our bandcamp that may help in giving people interested in the scene here some perspective sonically. All free downloads. we-did-this-records.bandcamp.com



TWENTY ONE CHILDREN PHOTO:
RUBEN GROBLER-BOTHMA

THAILAND

GAP/HOLDING ON RECORDS

BRIEF HISTORY: It started in the late 90s by an American guy named Chris who owns Elephant Eyes Records and distros hardcore stuff from there to here. He also made a fanzine called Arise Zine with Yos, one of the people who put on hardcore/punk shows in the past. Also nowadays he does the free music magazine called "BLAST" which is a report about hardcore/punk/metal



WHISPERS PHOTO: @NXPGPAGE



bands, gigs, and music from that time. We have a group called THHC (Thailand Hardcore) and PKHC (Pakkred Hardcore). Both are the first groups that played and spread real hardcore, because at that time people still thought all heavy music is hardcore.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Born From Pain (TH), No is Not, A-Zero, Forgod Killer, License to Kill
CURRENT BANDS: Whispers, The Shredder, Fordecision, Depressed 1279, Monument X, Rexrez, Carry On (TH)

SHOW SPACES: Speakerbox, Brownstone, Blueprint Livehouse, Mr. Fox Livehouse

HANGOUTS: Punks have a bar called 'Chaos Bar' and I always see some of our friends hanging out there. For Hardcore friends, we always hang out at Sinakarin Train Night Market because some of us have opened a vintage store there (me too) so it's very easy to meet each other and hang out there.

FOOD/DRINK: Many good coffee shops around Bangkok. I'm not a big fan of coffee but Brave Roaster at Siam is one of the best. For vegan/vegetarian restaurants, I don't know many because most of our friends aren't vegan/veg but I always go to Veganerie Concept, May Veggie Home, and Khun Churn.

RECORD STORES: Heaven and Hell (Chatuchak Market), Crocodiles (Chatuchak). Come to my store Chubby Boys Vintage Tee. I am just putting stuff from my label Holding On Records and also distributing some stuff from our friends in other countries too. If you need records or some merchandise we got it for you!

LOCAL CREATIVES:

Suchai Chucherd (Sixthirty Recording Studio), Chun One (Artist), Athipat Nenyod (PALESIGHT'S Videographer), Praniti Poomarin (BF Sound System), Pinit Thupthai (NXPG Photographer), Peerasit Pimpura (JUTHECREW Photographer), Kavin Trananthasin (K3T2 Videographer)

SCENE STATUS: Now everything looks good! People still come to the local shows and all the shows too. New bands are born and all the bands have their new stuff to release! Some old bands are coming back to play on some shows. I think it's a good sign for the scene and I hope it will still be good like this in the future. It's quite better than before. Now we have many new people and new teenagers that are coming to the shows, many people that were never interested in the hardcore scene before. They look like they are more interested. I hope more people will be interested and join us in the hardcore scene. We need to keep this scene alive and put Thailand Hardcore on the world map.

BRIEF HISTORY: There was a psychedelic rock scene in Cambodia in the 1960s that was amazing (check out the film *Don't Think I've Forgotten: Cambodia's Lost Rock and Roll*), unfortunately the Khmer Rouge devastated much of Cambodia and much was lost. There were some rock bands post-civil war but nothing serious. Cambodia's strange as there wasn't really a Punk or Metal scene, but there was a Nu-Metal and Metalcore scene that emerged in the late 2000s/early 2010s that paved the way for more Extreme Music in the Kingdom of Wonder.

Bands like SLITEN6IX, NO FOREVER and CARTOON were some of the bands that formed the Cambo Headbanger movement that was short-lived but had a lot of influence on the Khmer youth. There were also Metal bands comprised of foreigners like SPLITTER (and changed their name to KNELL) and Punk bands similarly comprised of foreigners like PSYCHOTIC REACTIONS and BOB PASSION & THE SCHKOOTs that shared the stage with the local Khmer bands. I formed NIGHTMARE A.D. just after the Cambo Headbanger movement died off, and we started out as a Punk band before moving towards Thrash Metal. DOCH CHKAE came about a year or two after we formed, SLITEN6IX was reborn as REIGN IN SLUMBER and Sam from NO FOREVER founded her own pop-punk act SAM ROCKER, all around that time (mid-2010s). There are local Rock and Metal bands who aren't part of the underground scene like SUFFER, DARK STORMZ, HARDIHOOD, etc. under local label Seila Records, but they only play big commercial shows with sponsors. It's hard to make a living here playing music professionally, so props to them still.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: SLITEN6IX, NO FOREVER, CARTOON, PSYCHOTIC REACTIONS, SANGVAR DAY, THE CAMBODIAN SPACE PROJECT, BOB PASSION & THE SCHKOOTs, DRAKKAR BAND, PHNOM SKOR, HYPNOTIC FIST TECHNIQUE, KAMPOT PLAYBOYS, THE LEVIATHANS, etc.

CURRENT BANDS: DOCH CHKAE, REIGN IN SLUMBER, NIGHTMARE A.D., AFTER GOD, SAM ROCKER, SOSELO SUMMER, WE ARE EWE, DARK STORMZ, etc.

SHOW SPACES: Cloud and Oscars on the Corner in Phnom Penh (book through

www.facebook.com/getinthepenh) and Atlantis Metal

Bar in Siem Reap (book through

www.facebook.com/atlantissiemreap).

HANGOUTS: Cloud or The Chug Lab

FOOD/DRINK: You can check out <https://www.happycow.net/> for vegan/vegetarian food. I personally love Bong Bonlai, Mercy House and Vitking House for vegetarian food. There are also many Indian restaurants that serve vegetarian and vegan cuisine like Namaste and Flavors of India. You will be spoilt for choice if you go to Bassac Lane or Russian Market or Riverside areas of Phnom Penh for food and coffee.

CAMBODIA

MIA PRIEST



NIGHTMARE AD
PHOTO: Vizzah Hart



RECORD STORES: The Chug Lab (www.facebook.com/thechuglab) stocks Punk and Metal records, patches, shirts and more, along with excellent in-house craft beer.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Chihiro Atmatsu (Atlantis Metal Bar, Slam City Asia), Alain Ou (Reign In Slumber, After God, Doch Chkae), Scott Bywater (Musician and Poet), Steve Porte (Photographer), Timon Seibel (Yab Mound Records), Initial G (Hypnotic Fist Technique, Genjutsu), Ned Kelly (Counterculture Cambodia), Kavi (Seila Records), Oscar (Oscar Bar), Pierre-Yves (Cloud), myself (Nightmare A.D., Get in the Penh, Slam City Asia), etc.

SCENE STATUS: Not great but surviving. 5 years ago the scene was bustling. We had more venues available and more crowds. Now unfortunately less venues put up with loud bands, preferring acoustic acts or DJs. Most local Metal acts have disbanded due to the low amount they get per show, and most "expat" bands have disbanded as well due to members moving back home or to other countries.

BRIEF HISTORY: Punk in Nepal got its start around 1996/97 in Kathmandu with Jhilke & The Rockers. I'm not sure if they ever played live, and their album probably didn't make it beyond their friends. The real Kathmandu punk scene only kicked off a few years later, in 2001-2002, when a few bands popped up around the same time and started playing shows together. Though far from being considered big, Nepal has had the most active hardcore/punk scene in South Asia since the early 2000s.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: The most well-known Nepali punk band was Rai Ko Ris. They were an anarcho punk band and were quite respected in that circle. Active from around 2000 to the early-2010s, they had several vinyl releases and even toured Europe and South East Asia. Tank Girl was a Rai Ko Ris side-project and were also well-regarded. Another notable punk band from the early-2000s was Inside 2 Stupid Triangles, whose members went on to form Jugaa in 2006. Jugaa brought in the metallic hardcore style to the Nepal scene which, though late by international standards, was fresh for this region. The longest running band from the Nepal scene, and still going strong, is Shannon Scam, although they only have one original member. They started out playing punk in the early-2000s, covering bands like Anti-Flag and Pennywise, and by 2010 had transitioned to playing hardcore, influenced by bands like Comeback Kid. A great band from around 2010 was MC, who played hardcore punk/ska, their sound being quite unhinged at times. The mid-2010s had Squirt Guns, who started playing straightforward punk and shifted to a darker post-hardcore sound by their second and last album. The same era also had Rog who played an intense mix of grind and powerviolence. All of these bands were from Kathmandu Valley, with the exception of Rog, who were from Pokhara, a city 200 kms west of Kathmandu.

CURRENT BANDS: Kathmandu Valley: Nainsook, Discord, Strangle, Total Menace, Six Coffins, Chain Ov Dogs, Neck Deep In Filth, Void To Exist, The Doltish, Youth Unite. Eastern Nepal: Toerag, Void Turned To Message, Manasik Karagar

SHOW SPACES: We play wherever we can. In the last couple of months, shows have taken place at Reggae Bar, the basement at Sunshine Boutique Hotel, and Purple Haze, the last being a huge venue that we aren't particularly fond of but we end up playing there sometimes anyway.

FOOD/DRINK: Kathmandu is peppered with good restaurants and cafes. For local fare, I would suggest Tukche Thakali, Newa Lahana, Honacha, Harisiddhi Newa Suli, and Great Tasty Boso Rahit Momo (there's a lot more). For pizza, Fire & Ice; Workshop Eatery and Queens for burgers; and Pho 99 for Vietnamese. For drinks, Sam's Bar in Thamel is a chill place. For traditional alcohol, visit Thimi, Bhaktapur (the hometown of Discord, I'm sure the boys will be glad to show you around) and Patan. As for veg/vegan restaurants, I had to take a little help from a friend (s/o Benji!): Loving Heart - 100% vegan. Local staples and western dishes. Sat Saheb - Operated by

religious-leaning vegans. Great fresh squeezed juice. Vegan House Cafe & Restaurant - Excellent momo (dumplings). Places Restaurant, Annakoot Veg, New Satkar Vegetarian Restaurant, Organic Smoothie Bowl and Café, Always Happy Vegan Vegetarian.

LOCAL CREATIVES: We don't have dedicated promoters - it's mostly just bands coming together to put on shows. As for artists, Melo (one of the hardest moshers in the scene) has been doing a lot of work, along with the guys from the PSD collective. Karun is one of the few people taking photographs. Keroz from Discord/Six Coffins/Chain ov Dogs and Manish from the Doltish are into screenprinting. And although she's not quite connected to the local scene anymore, Sarena from Rai Ko Ris/Ris Records runs the Infoshop, a radical library that also produces feminist and anarchist literature.

SCENE STATUS: It is as active as it can get for a small scene. We've had a show or two every month in the last couple of years and there's a lot more recorded output. It's tough to say what the future holds for a place like Nepal. The country is losing its youth steadily due to the lack of jobs and opportunities. Even though we've got more bands and shows now, attendance has noticeably dropped compared to before. Everyone's either already left or has plans to go abroad. I just hope there's an infusion of new blood in the coming years.



NEPAL



VISHAL RAI



BRIEF HISTORY: Started in the 90s, the scene expanded with time and gave birth to a lot of great bands, regardless of genre. Despite the restrictions or society not accepting the subcultures. Decades later, the scene kept thriving and the new generation are coming in, so there's hope still.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Distrust, Lifelock, Blinded Humanity, Vaarallinen, Abrasion, Beelzebub, Lubricant, Tantra, Snaggletooth, Recover, Secret Seven, Wormrot, Straightforward, Pazahora, Daily Ritual, Zodd, Fluke, Radigals, Yumi, Protest, Bariklana, Tormentress, Abiator

CURRENT BANDS: Doldrey, Fuse, Sial, Destiny, Dissect, Pseudo Reality, Renegade, B.C, Silicon, Intermission, Vitriol, Putrid Scum, Darah, Klutch, Xyresic, Ursula, Bloodstone, Constitution, Deviaré, Auto, Stiletto, <<<30secs, Topsy Turvy, Marmalia, Kudis, Deceased, Haal, Ural, Naedr, Afterdeath,

SHOW SPACES: Currently we have Phil's Studio, WeLive House, Lithe Style, Dreamstudio Productions

FOOD/DRINK: Zam Zam Restaurant, Indian Cuisine (697-699 North Bridge Rd), Nur Fayidha Restaurant (2 Pahang Street), Kulon; Indonesian Cuisine (30 Bali Lane), Lavi Taco (195 Pearl's Hill Terrace), Chix Hot Chicken (1 Jalan Pisang), Seah Im Food Centre, Newton Food Centre, Sunshine Plaza for vegetarian/vegan, **DRINK:** BK Eating House (21 South Bridge Road), The FlyingV Metal Bar (The Adelphi, 1 Coleman Street), Abv @Southbridge (208 Southbridge Road)

RECORD STORES: Surface Noise! at Textile Centre

SINGAPORE

YAZZ



DOLDREY photo: Wayne Tan

LOCAL CREATIVES:

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Gary (Boplayphotos), Discherny (there.will.be.snooze), Syafiq (smellofsilence)

(puxe_research), Wayne Tan (xwayne1991x), Syukri (_msyukrij), nazdmar (6naz6mar6). Gig

PROMOTERS: Hasib (Azadghei), Ahmad Ruzaini (c.i.t.o.c), Yazz (crucialstatesg), Wen jie (firstbloodproductions), Atika and Mimi (delta.trichome), Lee (matarambangsg), Trenchfootproduction, Ourstrayliberties (ourstrayliberties), Thrashfinds (thrashfinds), Shitresist Recs (Shitresist). **ARTISTS:** Izzad Radzali Shah, Hafiz (asian_primate), Ahmad Ruzaini (c.i.t.o.c_art). **OTHER:** Israa (soundblast.sg), Shrub (shrub.0128)

SCENE STATUS: Both hardcore and punk scene are thriving and its great to see bands doing well and touring overseas. The faith hasn't died down. I think when covid hit, it impacted the scene pretty hard but it didn't stop us from creating music still. I think it made us appreciate the music scene more. When restrictions are over, there were more people present. More gigs organized and more new bands coming in. I think the only issue was that a lot of venues from back then closed down sadly. I'm hoping more Singaporean bands are known in the region or internationally. The scene won't die out, more people are contributing and doing DIY shows.

Doldrey

ONLY DEATH IS ETERNAL
13P RELEASE



MASAKRE
-A-CAPIA

LIFELock
SIAL

30 AT THE DOOR
VENUE: ASK A PUNK

2ND AUGUST 2024
7:30 PM

BRIEF HISTORY: The punk/hardcore scene in Metro Manila began in the late 1970s and early 1980s, heavily influenced by the global punk movement. The political climate during the Martial Law era fueled the rise of punk, as it provided a voice of resistance and rebellion. The scene continued to grow in the 1980s with the emergence of bands like Third World Chaos, Urban Bandits, Dead Ends, The Wuds, Philippine Violators, IOV, Betrayed, etc.. By the 1990s, the hardcore punk scene also took root, with a DIY ethos and a growing network of bands, zines, and independent labels.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: From 80's pioneering punk and hardcore bands are The Jerks, Third World Chaos, The Wuds, Urban Bandits, Betrayed, Dead Ends, G.I. & the Idiots, IOV, RDA, and others. These early Filipino punk bands were known for their politically charged, raw, and confrontational lyrics, blending punk and hardcore elements. Many of these bands are still active and perform occasionally. In the early to late '90s, bands like Biofeedback, Bulldozed, Bad Omen, ADA, Feud, and Empty emerged. The 2000s saw the rise of groups such as Bystorm, Sauna, Killratio, Nuclear Punishment, Isvarah, Forgiveness Denied, Istukas Over Disneyland, Half the Battle, Prayer of Endurance, Play and more.

CURRENT BANDS: Clean Slate, Gibraltar, Badwave, Shockpoint, Figure Out, Warg, Exit Wound, Past Forward, Repetition, Veils, Danum, Value Lasts, Swineslaughter, Crepuscule, etc.

SHOW SPACES: Mow's in Quezon City: A basement bar known for hosting underground music shows. Paper Lantern (AKA Mow's), Eastside (Marikina) and 123 Block in Mandaluyong.

VEG FOOD: Vegan places that I know around the Metro are Greenery Kitchen QC, Wabi Sabi, and Cosmic in Población Makati.

RECORD STORES: Mutilated Noise in Makati, Treskul Records carries some punk records too, Still ill Records - we manage this, online selling only though.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Active promoters: Still Ill, Sleeping Boy Collective, Counterflow, BHC (Bacolod), Hostile Youth (Cebu), Mainland Crew, Not Very Noise (from Baguio). There are only a few that make printed zine nowadays -- Dance ov Death, Lack of Almost Everything (Incidental Afterthought), Siege, and some art zines that are being circulated. Photographers : CADM, JLE, Jhona, Ray Fernandez.

SCENE STATUS: The scene in Metro Manila is still active, though it's more underground compared to its peak in the 80s and 90s. DIY shows continue to thrive, and there's a strong sense

METRO MANILA/ LUZON, PHILIPPINES

DANGIE REGALA



CLEAN SLATE PHOTO: @JHONAPOTATO

of community among the bands and scene kids.

The pandemic temporarily slowed down live events, but there has been a resurgence as restrictions have eased. The passion and DIY spirit remain strong, and there's been a noticeable shift toward more diverse sounds within the punk and hardcore scene.

PARTING WORDS: The Metro Manila punk and hardcore scene remains a vital space for self-expression and community. Despite challenges, it continues to adapt and survive, proving that the spirit of punk is still very much alive in the Philippines.



BRIEF HISTORY: The first wave of Malaysian hardcore music emerged between 1992 and 1998. A significant milestone during this period was the release of the Visionville Hardcore compilation CD in 1996, which helped to develop the hardcore scene in Malaysia. This compilation featured bands such as Disaster Funhouse, Chronic Mass, NET, Projek AK, and Another Side. In its early days, the Kuala Lumpur Hardcore (KLHC) scene was heavily influenced by the New York Hardcore (NYHC) style and bands associated with labels like Revelation Records and Victory Records. These labels were some of the few whose music was accessible in Malaysia at the time. It's important to note that this was before the internet became widely available, so ordering music from overseas often involved taking risks with well-hidden cash in the mail—a practice that was quite uncertain.

The hardcore scene during this period was active in cities such as Kuala Lumpur (KL), Ipoh, Johor Bahru (JB), Penang (Png), and Kuantan. In contrast, the East Coast of Malaysia, especially in Kelantan and Terengganu, had fewer gigs and was more focused on punk bands. One notable venue on the East Coast was Boom Boom in Kuantan, which hosted many shows until it closed around 2000-2002. In the KL and Selangor areas, gigs were often held at venues like Piccadilly Discotheque at Plaza Atria Damansara Utama. Other venues included the Fire Disco behind the Shangri-La Hotel. A memorable event from this era was the 1996 Fugazi showcase—Fugazi being one of the first U.S. bands to perform in Malaysia. The KLHC community frequently gathered at the food court on the first floor of Central Market in Kuala Lumpur. Overall, the early Malaysian hardcore scene was vibrant and built on a strong sense of community, heavily influenced by international trends and characterized by a DIY ethos.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Disaster Funhouse, Chronic Mass, NET, Projek AK, Another Side, Second Combat, Kids On The Moves, Restraint, Cassandra & many more.

CURRENT BANDS: All the bands in RVDA Hardcore Compilations 1, 2 & 3

SHOW SPACES: Rumah Api, Petai Belalang, Angguk Studio, Behave Studio, Be KL, Drum Asia

EAT/DRINK: BADKOFF (Our team is managing the coffee business). **VEG FOOD:** Loving Cafe, DBKL Vegetarian and BMS Organics, by the way there are many options, but I'll mention the place where I took the touring band to eat.

RECORD STORES: Tandang Store, Basement Records, Teenage Head Records

LOCAL CREATIVES: I have been managing the RVDA label since 2010.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

RABUNOX

SCENE STATUS: In my opinion, when I compare the scene now to five years ago, back in 2019, there was a stronger sense of support from the community. People showed up for every show, and as someone who organized events, I noticed the familiar faces in the crowd. There weren't as many bands back then, which made each performance more special and drew more people to the shows. There were also fewer hardcore crews, which meant less division and more unity within the scene. However, it's important to remember that every generation brings something different to the table.



KUCHING, SARAWAK EAST MALAYSIA

KARLOS/SAWTORTURE

BRIEF HISTORY: The punk scene started in the early 90's influenced from the 70's UK punk scene. In the mid 90's the skinhead and hardcore scene was started, and the punk/ hardcore scene has been growing ever since. There are few bands playing punk/hardcore during early 90s disbanded early and few of their lineups are now in one of the most notable Indie Rock bands in Malaysia namely Nice Stupid Playground, The Times & OAG. Kuching has hosted shows for hardcore bands such as Comeback Kid, Xibalba, Harm's Way, Full Of Hell, Xile, Palm, and various bands from the South East Asian region such as Wormrot, Straight Answer and others. Other notable bands that we had hosted are I Killed The Prom Queen, Confession, Suicide Silence, Kylesa, Lemondjin, Clowns, Sixth League.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: In Malaysia, among the first punk bands to have a release was the Pilgrims (previously known as Hijrah) with the album Perfume Garden, later Carburetor Dung released an album Songs for Friends of course we have newer Hardcore bands like Restraint, Second Combat, Kids On The Move, Serangga, Dance On Your Grave, Kurasaaku, Vormit, Traitor to name a few.

CURRENT BANDS: Serangga, Clockwise, Schiv
SHOW SPACES: Previously there was PHANTOM LIMB, a bonafide DIY Hardcore Punk space which started around 2012 and Rumah Panjai which was around from 2017 to 2023. Currently most shows will be at AppleSeeds Jamming Studio, which has always been supportive of the scene and also Backdoor Studio and Event Space and Lek to name a few. As for larger scale shows usually be held at Local Bar, and also some small hall to fit crowds around 300-800 pax

FOOD/DRINK: For coffee we have Zoey's Book and Coffee, Tirta Barong, Bing Café (they have few branches here in Kuching), and local food courts for those who prefer something simpler and just want to drink from the get go. For food of course food courts where you can get local food from the hawker stalls such as Sarawak Laksa, Kolo Mee (Dry Noodles). These two are pretty much everywhere here in Kuching. As for vegan/vegetarian restaurants are mostly Chinese style vegetarian food which can be found almost everywhere in Food Courts and they are usually labeled as "Vegetarian". If you prefer the larger establishments there is a restaurant called Big Veggie selling Chinese style food. Some of the Indian restaurants here sell vegetarian options too. As of now there are no exclusively vegan restaurants but there are some restaurants and cafes that have vegan options too. Notable ones are Indah Café at China Street, Kuching. They sell Vegan Friendly Nasi Lemak.

RECORD STORES: Bandat Record Store

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters: Punkcaroba, Thornwire, Live In KCH, Raja Dubai, Skon Crew

SCENE STATUS: Slowly picking up shows and there are bands trying to release new materials. As of now we can say that this year alone there are around nearly 10 shows. The scene is active, but not as active as compared to pre Covid times. We are recovering. During pre-Covid time there are at least 2-3 show/month. We are on track to pre-Covid times at this rate. We are also expecting new bands to appear and releasing new materials. There are older bands having reunion.

PARTING WORDS: If you'd like to tour in Eastern parts of Malaysia (Malaysian Borneo), do feel free contact the promoters that I'd mentioned.

DANCE ON YOUR GRAVE
PHOTO: @JONKYT



CLOCKWISE PHOTO: NAZRAN FOTOLOG



BRIEF HISTORY: More than the punk/hardcore scene, we mostly had an extreme metal scene which all started around 10-15 years with bands playing genres like brutal death, groove metal and thrash. Our state Sikkim being a very small state already has a very low population and on top of that finding people who are into extreme music is even harder. Hence there was no punk/hardcore scene per se rather a more metal scene which incorporated everyone under the umbrella.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Damagera, Crystal and the Witches, Sycorax, Still Waters

CURRENT BANDS: My band Konflicts. We play more of like grindy, crusty and hardcore-ish kind of music and are the only active band at least in the punk/hardcore space from our region. There is another great band called Guns from the countryside who are not punk but rather more of a stoner rock/Lemmy-esque band. They put out a great album last year.

SHOW SPACES: The problem which we mostly face is a lack of venues. There has been one long standing venue "Cafe Live N Loud" in Gangtok, Sikkim who have always been open to us doing shows and have been very monumental in the cultural aspect when it comes to music in our state.

EAT/DRINK: There are quite a few great places to grab coffee here in Gangtok, Sikkim, one of them being The Local Cafe. They grow and brew their own coffee called Sikkim Coffee and have a great menu too. Others are Travel Connect and Lhasa

SIKKIM, INDIA

PHURBA YENDEN SHERPA

Newar. More than anything I'd suggest to go have a look around and indulge in the food culture from street vendors and the locals to have a real taste of what Sikkim cuisine is like. Vegan/Vegetarian friendly restaurants are quite hard to find one as our culture is predominantly meat eating and the majority of the people are inclined towards consuming meat.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Me and a bunch of friends have opened a promoting agency to push the culture and scene a bit forward and it's called "gujixguji". We have done quite a number of shows here in Gangtok and also a great photographer would be Pravav Pariyar who covers our shows free of cost and is always keen on helping the scene.

SCENE STATUS: The scene here is actually dying with fewer people getting into the music. People still have a stigma around it and we are doing as much as we can to keep it alive by doing as many shows as we can. Compared to five years ago, the scene is better in terms of getting paid and ticket sales but there are only a few bands to play, which is what makes the scene die. We always encourage people to start bands and put music out. I'm still hopeful about the scene and I hope more bands turn up and start doing their own shows so more people can attend and join the culture.

guji guji VOLUME III



MANEATING ORCHID ***** METACORE // BHANGA DRE
KONFLICTS ***** HESSEGRAND // SIKKIM
CATATONIC ***** DEATHBOND // SHILLONG
PRATIKRIYA ***** PROGRESSIVE METAL // SIKKIM



INSIDER

THE PUNK



BRIEF HISTORY: India's had a thriving scene of metal bands for over 3 decades now, with some bands seeing success in touring internationally as well. Punk & hardcore is a minority here though, as the culture never caught on the way it has in Nepal or South East Asia for example.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: For punk in Mumbai, The Riot Peddlers were probably one of the first to break out into the scene about a decade & half ago with their take on straight up hardcore punk. Grammy Winning Effort (Delhi) had their spin on ETID inspired hardcore. Death By Fungi (Mumbai) was another pivotal band in creating a space for other hardcore bands to also thrive in our city. False Flag (screamo / crust) have also been our peers over the years, with their powerful, politically informed music. Lots of pop-punk influenced bands also in our scene - check out The Lightyears Explode, Punk On Toast, Dossers Urge, to name a few.

CURRENT BANDS: Maneating Orchid, Godless, Dirge, Serpents of Pakhangba, Nangsan, Eccentric Pendulum, Amorphia, Konflicts, Moral Putrefaction, Peter Cat Recording Co.

SHOW SPACES: Antisocial in Mumbai. Also EXT, Fandom, Imperfecto, The Raft

FOOD/DRINK: Coffee - Subko & Boujee Cafe. Drink - try the brews at Toit or Doolally. Eat - I'm gonna skip restaurants and non-native cuisines & name dishes that can be found in Mumbai - masala dosa, vada pav, misal pav, pav bhaji, pani puri, chaat & bhel, Kerala beef porotta, Malvani fish thali, Gujarati Kathiawadi thali, and I'm barely scratching the surface here. Mumbai is cosmopolitan so all the above food is actually multiple cuisines from across India coming together here. Indian food is largely vegan if you skip dairy in dishes, especially yogurt & butter, so that's easier to access than what most people think. We eat far less meat on an average as well around here, home cooked meals tend to be largely vegetarian. There's lots of vegan options at most contemporary restaurants as well, but I don't look into that much as I'm an omnivore by diet.

RECORD STORES: The Revolver Club

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters - Four By Four / CTRL ALT DELETE, Aggressive Tendencies, Skillbox. Photographers - Jishnu Chakroborty, Abhishek Gupta, Rhea Talati

SCENE STATUS: The pandemic lasted longer here than it did in the US thanks to a slow rollout of vaccines. It's been slow to come back since then in terms of some key hardcore bands going on hiatus or moving out of the scene & even moving out of the country. Like I mentioned earlier the scene is more amorphous with bands from across genres & mixed bills & lineups being the norm. So that continues to be the way things go in India. 5 years ago things felt pretty popping cause we were all in our twenties & going hard for playing shows & doing shit together, with many more of us in active bands. Now we're a scene of largely people in their thirties trying to not get caught in a mosh & go back home before bedtime lol but we still have a good time. There's a lot more international artists playing

MUMBAI, INDIA

SID/PACIFIST



PACIFIST PHOTO: JISHNU CHAKROBORTY



India & the bar for production values at concerts are at record-high, but we're not finding as many new young bands to play shows with as much as there used to be. The cost of buying tickets & attending shows have also gone up, which is discouraging for the actual youth who barely make much money & there are no spaces for teenagers to people in their mid-twenties to go to & experience what alternative subcultures truly mean (outside of hip-hop, which has found a huge fandom in India) We need more people in this country to remind audiences what punk / DIY ethics have taught us & how culture is built around community, not hype. We're hoping to be a voice that contributes in this direction & hopefully more of us will spread these ideas in union. Other than that, I really hope the new generation gets to access these ideas & interpret them in refreshing new ways to keep the culture going & alive. I think there definitely are youth who feel disenfranchised by most commercial music & will seek refuge in the counterculture, and we're hoping our music reaches them in a meaningful way.

BRIEF HISTORY: The history of Kazakhstan as an independent country began relatively recently. Kazakhstan gained independence only in the 90s, after the collapse of the USSR. During the Soviet era, alternative music was suppressed, there were simply no conditions for creating a scene. In the 90s, little-known bands and the first rock bars began to appear.

Unfortunately, I have no information about them, but among the big names I can name Ermen Anti's group - "АДАПТАЦИЯ". This is probably the only punk band from Kazakhstan whose fame has gone beyond the country. Now they are old, they give tours around Europe. Ermen also has a Kazakh-language punk-project called Bishara Baldar.

CURRENT BANDS: P.I.G.Z - hardcore dnb band, красные чулки - feminist hardcore punk, АНТИВСЕ - beatdown hardcore, Shark Revolt - eggpunk, КРА3-255 - street hardcore, Ajal - grindcore.

SHOW SPACES: Not long ago, the wonderful bar Anklav closed in Almaty. Absolutely everyone performed there, a real gathering point for nonconformists. Now the most accessible venue is considered to be Lenore Pub, a small and, as we say,

KAZAKHSTAN

YULIYA PETROVA

shitty bar. There is also a cool summer area - Garazh Barazh. It is a real garage covered in graffiti.

VEG FOOD: I know of only one vegan cafe in Almaty - Plants. But it is not cheap at all. We have serious problem with vegan food, since eating meat is ingrained in Kazakhs at a cultural level. There are almost no vegan options in regular eateries

LOCAL CREATIVES: In the last 2 years, wonderful content makers relocants have appeared in Almaty. Brothers Ruslan and Maxim - @rysa_schwein and @lostfilesfromyokohama in inst. They film our concerts for free and help us with promotion. There is a cool photographer Boris - @whoisboris, who also does concert photography. The whole team of the punk festival ШАБАШ can be noted. These people raised the local scene. First of all, Artem Vvedensky, he is the founder of this festival and co-owner of the recently closed Anklav bar.

SCENE STATUS: It's all just beginning. The country is young and the scene is too. Every year new names appear, and I hope that it will continue like this. The war between Russia and Ukraine changed everything. Now we have many Russian musicians who moved here from Putin's terror. The local scene is merging with the Russian one. Also, famous artists started coming to us, not to Russia. This gave impetus to the development of the scene. People started recognizing Kazakhstan. It seems to me that in 5 years the punk scene in Kazakhstan will become more recognizable. Maybe it will finally merge with the Russian one and there will be no difference. After all, some Russian artists, for example the anti-Putinist punk band РЕЖИМ! Are already considered local.

22 АПРЕЛЯ
АБАЯ 124 19:00

LENORE PUB

КРАСНЫЕ
ЧУЛКИ

РЕЖИМ!

НОМАДИК

ГАРА
ОРДА



ВХОД 4000. С РЕПОСТОМ 3000

красные чулки PHOTO:
BORIS (@WHOISBORIS)



BRIEF HISTORY: I can't really speak for the history of the Tokyo scene itself, but there are many people who have stayed active at the forefront of the scene from when I first got involved 20 years ago until now.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: You can't talk about classic bands without mentioning Gauze or Death Side, but when I think of current Tokyo bands, NUMB and Saigan Terror come to mind.

CURRENT BANDS: KLONNIS: They have a sound that blends legendary Japanese hardcore with catchy yet brutal breakdowns reminiscent of Boston bands like Think I Care or Obliteration. They're one of the bands that Blow Your Brains Out feels a strong connection with. Brave Out:

A youth crew style band that just toured the West Coast of the U.S. with Odd Man Out. Their LP from two years ago is amazing. Wrong State: A power violence band that includes members from Brave Out. Their breakdowns are outstanding. Like KLONNIS, they're heavily influenced by Boston bands.

SHOW SPACES: In Japan, there are many places called "live houses," which have basic equipment, so there are plenty of venues to play. Among them, Shinjuku's ANTIKNOCK is one of the best. Recently, it's also become common to hold shows at rehearsal studios that are rented by the hour, which has a similar atmosphere to house shows in the U.S.

FOOD/DRINK: I used to walk around drinking coffee, but now I'm satisfied with 7-Eleven coffee, so I'm not really up to date. Vegan-friendly places are increasing in Tokyo, though. Afuri, a noodle place, is a popular spot I often take people to, and they usually enjoy it. These days, friends visiting Japan are more up to date with research than I am, and I often find myself learning from them.

TOKYO, JAPAN

YUSUKE MATSUSHIMA

RECORD STORES: Nerds Records, run by Hiro (Loyal To The Grave/Retribute Records) and Mizuki (ICE GRILL\$ Records).

LOCAL CREATIVES: Kagawa Takuma (photographer), Kenta Nakano (photographer)

SCENE STATUS: I don't want to compare it to the past, because the hardcore scene is all about the present moment. But it's hard to ignore how much ticket prices for shows and T-shirts have gone up. A lot of this has to do with Japan's economic situation. Since the pandemic, more people from overseas are coming to shows, and I feel like more people are paying attention not only to Japanese bands but also to the Japanese scene as a whole. There are a lot of amazing bands here, so it's great to see more people taking notice. Bands like Krueley, who are actively touring overseas and playing at festivals, have contributed a lot to that.

ICE GRILL\$ PRESENTS
KOYO
FROM LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK
HOLLOW SUNS
NUMB
BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT
TRUE FIGHT

JANUARY 28, 2024
SHIBUYA THE GAME
渋谷ライブハウスクラブ/年間計画
DOORS 6 PM
START 6:00 PM
ADV ¥4,800
DOORS ¥5,800

BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT
PHOTO: KAGAWA TAKUMA

BRIEF HISTORY: Punk took root in China's capital in the mid-90s when several young musicians began jamming with the drummer from the nationally recognized alternative act Underbaby. This led to the creation of three new Oi! and street-punk-influenced acts: 69, Brain Failure, and Anarchy Boys. Together with the pop-punk act Reflector, these four bands became known as the 'Bored Contingent' and began performing together in small rock bars and KTV parlors across the city. In '98, a new venue and label called Scream began hosting regular packed shows and released the "Bored Contingent" compilation CD, introducing punk to larger local and national audiences and sparking an explosion of acts in Beijing and across the country. From '99 onwards, the scene grew with a proliferation of styles, from pop-punk to street-punk to '77-influenced bands. However, after reaching a peak in the early 00s, the scene began to fade and has remained largely underground. While Beijing hosts the biggest and most active punk scene, many smaller scenes and important acts have formed nationwide. In recent years, punk has staged a comeback in the capital with new bands and a growing audience supported by the small alleyway venue School Bar and local punk and hardcore festivals, including Hardstick, Reverb, and CNHC Fest.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Beijing's first wave of punk bands, Brain Failure, Reflector, 69, and Anarchy Boys, are collectively known as the 'Bored Contingent.' They sparked a scene that by the early 00s grew into a second wave of ska and Oi!-influence acts, including Hang On The Box, Ouch, Mi San Dao, and Unfilial Son. The second wave subsequently paved the way for a third wave of '77 punk-influenced bands named the 'Qinghe' or 'QingHell Punks', Joyside, Eat Truck, Another Idea, and The Believers, joined by a heavier and more chaotic group of Oi! and street-punk bands called the 'Beijing Rejects.' While these two groups often shared bills, the latter included bands like Mi San Dao and Kill Tomorrow, influenced by the Exploited and US punkcore acts and took an antagonistic and often confrontational stance towards pop punks, metalheads, and society at large. By the mid-00s, Beijing's first hardcore scene formed with bands like Last Chance of Youth, Unregenerate Blood, and Fanzui Xiangfa, performing with newer punk acts SUBS, FLYX, Soju Legion, and the Diders.

CURRENT BANDS: Beijing's current hardcore scene is led by NYHC-influenced acts Unregenerate Blood and Return the Truth, followed by younger bands like Long Hu Bao and Demolish. Notable skinhead and street-punk acts include Shave'n'Shut, Hell City, Gum Bleed, System Chaos, and Shackles. The city also boasts a new wave of d-beat, thrash, and powerviolence bands led by D-Crash, Demonstrators, BBQ, and Rust Sucker and a nascent indie-punk scene championed by riot grrrl-influenced act Xiao Wang.

SHOW SPACES: Legendary venues from the first wave of punk in the late 90s include Scream Club (where Beijing punk was born), Everyday Bar, Get Lucky, and Kaixin Leyuan. They were often small ramshackle spaces

BEIJING, CHINA

LI YOU & NEVIN DOMER



2024 CNHC FEST PHOTO: ROKO

doubling as student dives, prostitute bars, and rollerskating rinks. The third wave of street and hardcore punk found a home in the tiny What Bar adjacent to China's old imperial palace, the Forbidden City, while later increasingly professional venues include Nameless Highland, 13 Club, D-22, MAO Livehouse, and Temple Bar. Unfortunately, these venues have all closed due to rising rents and COVID, leaving School Bar, a punk dive run by the Joyside bassist, as the best remaining pillar of the scene.

RECORD STORES & LABELS: Through the 90s, Beijing hosted several record stores that sold 'dakou' or cut CDs. These were overstock from abroad shipped to China as trash. They were rescued by enterprising businessmen and fans who distributed them to small vendors nationwide. Many early musicians avidly collected these cut CDs and, through them, discovered a wide range of genres from the West. Today, the cut CDs are gone and, likely due to China's restrictive policy limiting imported foreign music, legal record stores have largely failed to take their place. Indie Music on Gulou East street is by far the best. They exhaustively catalog the local music scene, stocking smaller labels and DIY releases from punk and hardcore bands across China. While many local bands self-release, a few active labels support the scene, including Dying Art, Genjing Records, & Real Deal.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Liu Yang runs BJCPHOTOS (youtube). Peng Ke (pengkepaishe - instagram)

SCENE STATUS: School bar continues to host regular punk shows and various other underground music genres. CNHC has promoted hardcore shows in Beijing since 2012 and holds multiple festivals nationwide annually. Reverb Fest carries the torch for the much-loved Beijing Punk Fest run by the vocalist Lei Jun of Mi San Dao from 2004 until his death in 2015. Lei Jun's restaurant and bar, Noodle In and Shut Up! Bar, continue as hotspots for the scene. The label Dying Art hosts Hard Stick Fest multiple times a year, promoting the newer thrash, crust, and powerviolence acts.

BRIEF HISTORY: The hot southern city of Wuhan rivals Beijing for the title of 'birthplace of Chinese punk' and is home to arguably China's oldest and most famous punk band, SMZB. In the mid-90s, a Wuhan native, Wu Wei, traveled to Beijing to study bass guitar at the Midi Music School. After a brief course and quite a bit of drinking, he returned to Wuhan in '96 with two classmates to form SMZB. Initially, they were influenced by '90s grunge, but amongst the flood of 'dakou' or cut CDs (overstock records from Japan and the West that were shipped to China as trash), they began to discover punk. Soon, through a local radio station, they met other young musicians, and a scene formed around four bands: SMZB, Si Dou Le, Mama, and Angry Dog Eyes (later renamed Shit Dog). These four bands became known as the 'Wuhan Riot Group'. At the time, a single drummer, Zhu Ning, played for all four, often in a single night. Wuhan punks are famous for getting drunk and running naked through the streets. They are also known as the most political in China. They have been signatories of China's Charter 08 pro-democracy manifesto and organized protests against gentrification and environmental destruction in Wuhan's East Lake district. They were the first in China to create a website (in 1999) where they published information about their bands in both Chinese and English. This allowed them to connect with DIY punks worldwide who mailed them music and even came to visit. Wuhan bands like SMZB and Si Dou Le were the first in the country to organize DIY tours abroad in Europe and SE Asia.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Wuhan's first wave of punk bands formed in the late 90s with SMZB and grew into the 'Wuhan Riot Group': SMZB, Si Dou Le, Mama, and Angry Dog Eyes (Shit Dog). By 2000 there was a second wave of bands, including Discover, Big Buns, Polang (formerly Mama), and the all-female punk band No Pass, whose singer would later, with members of Shit Dog, form the nationally acclaimed Beijing-based act SUBS. The early '00s brought newer bands like 400 Blows and Public Toilet. Later notable acts include grindcore SCOD, hardcore-punk Nao Nao Si, and punk-n-roll Abberation.

SHOW SPACES: There were no regular performance spaces in the 90s. The early Wuhan punk bands performed together in karaoke clubs and small bars across the city, often only playing in a space once before being banned from returning. In 1999, Kang Mao from No Pass opened a small bar called Boys Toys to host shows. It only lasted a few months until her friends drank it into bankruptcy. In 2000, the New Human Bar opened, and Wu Wei from SMZB signed a deal to promote shows bringing in bands from Beijing and around the country, leveraging the contacts he'd gained while attending the Midi Music School. Wuhan soon became a hub for bands across south China, with touring acts from Changsha, Guilin, Guangzhou, and Nanjing coming first to New Human Bar and then to VOX Bar in '02. It wasn't until '05, however, when Zhu Ning from SMZB opened the second iteration of VOX that the Wuhan punks found a steady place to play. VOX has gone through multiple locations, first as a temporary spot in an old church and now, in it's fourth

WUHAN, CHINA

HUZI & NEVIN DOMER

location, as a 1,000-cap venue supporting punk, hardcore, and other underground and independent scenes. Wuhan also boasts a small punk bar called Folkhand/ Wuhan Prison, started by Wu Wei from SMZB. Tucked under one of the recent incarnations of VOX and adjacent to the busy Lu Mo road, Folkhand is the main hangout for the city's punks and hosts shows on the weekends.

RECORD STORES/LABELS: Wuhan Prison Records was founded in 2008 by Wu Wei from SMZB to provide young bands with opportunities to perform and record. Their current roster includes SMZB from Wuhan and CSBQ and the Last Choice from neighboring Changsha. The label also organizes the annual Wuhan Punk Festival with bands from across the country.

LOCAL CREATIVES: From the start, the Wuhan scene was deeply connected to traditional artists, painters, and poets, as well as writers and coders experimenting with new internet technology. Li Yu was one of the early supporters of the Wuhan punks. He photographed and filmed the early shows and knew how to code. He created the website Wuhanpunk.com. Mai Dian (Si Dou Le, 400 Blows, Fanzui Xiangfa) helped out with the website and created a print zine called Chaos. His command of English allowed him to translate articles on anarchism and communicate with foreign punks. In the early 2000s, together with his partner Wane, he began organizing China tours for overseas bands. After returning from Si Dou Le's 2004 European tour, Mai Dian turned a cheap house on the edge of the city in Wuhan's East Lake district into a squat named 'Our House' and began organizing public conferences and anarchist discussion groups. Our House became a central location for protesters organizing against gentrification and environmental destruction in the East Lake district.

SCENE STATUS: In recent years, Wuhan punk has been relatively quiet compared to the punk revival happening in other parts of the country. Wu Wei, frontman for SMZB, moved to the UK during COVID but returns several times a year to practice and record, both with SMZB and his solo folk project. Wuhan Prison Records is actively promoting and touring bands from south China, including the Wuhan-based act Abberation. Folk Hand Bar continues to host DJ and folk nights as well as occasional punk shows for younger hardcore-punk acts like Job Dad (with former members of SCOD) and the all-female Rapid Rebound.

PARTING WORDS: Scream for Life!

BISHKEK CITY, KYRGYZSTAN

ALEXANDER DEGTYAREV

BRIEF HISTORY: The entire punk/hardcore scene is a very small and almost unnoticed part of a small and unnoticed scene in the region. Even when talking about metal music in our country, there are only 12 active bands listed on "Metal Archives," with only 5 still active and three of them based abroad. The punk scene in Kyrgyzstan is a very strange phenomenon. It emerges strongly for a couple of years and then completely dies, only to reappear a couple of years later. It's like a very sick and always half-dead phoenix, you know? This trend has been consistent for the last 20 years. There are practically no bands that have recorded more than one album, no bands that have been active for over fifteen years, and those that are still around are either divided or have changed direction. Right now, to be honest, it's not the best time for punk/hardcore in this country; the scene is practically dead.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: All the bands from the past are a very local phenomenon, and there hasn't been a single one that was known beyond a couple of neighboring cities. In the Kyrgyz scene, it used to be a big deal to go and do a show in a neighboring city (for example, from Bishkek to Almaty, Kazakhstan). While some releases and even punk compilations were produced in the past, everything was very local and didn't go beyond Kyrgyzstan. The neighboring Kazakhstan has always had a better scene, but aside from the band ADAPTATION and its leader Yermen "Anti," I can't recall anyone else. It's that bleak.

CURRENT BANDS: SHAHID, You Broken Face, Art Of Gore, Jinks, O.Bender, My Own Shiva, Josskee. There are also a few bands in a suspended state that we don't know much about, whether they exist or not. These include Bishkek Street Assassins, Social Destroyer, and DxRxDx. Once a year, they post something on their social media, release new material, and then disappear again for a year. I've only written about the punk/hardcore scene above, but we also have a metal scene. It's not much better there. Yes, there are more bands, including death metal and black metal, as well as several metalcore bands, but overall it's the same story as with hardcore. The situation is much better in Kazakhstan, but right now we're only talking about Kyrgyzstan.

SHOW SPACES: The entire rock scene in Kyrgyzstan exists only in Bishkek, the capital. There aren't many venues willing to host aggressive music. The list is very small: BARS6 (where almost all local shows take place), PLUR - a former meat processing plant, Somewhere Bistro - where more melodic bands



SHAHID PHOTO: @margarita_vysotina

play, and Peppers Bar - a biker bar where you can rarely hear punk.

FOOD/DRINK: Kyrgyzstan is a country where meat is the main food source, and vegans/vegetarians struggle to survive. Some places have vegetarian menus, but generally, you have to look for Indian restaurants or cafes. It's almost impossible for vegans to find something suitable. Central Asia, in general, is not an easy place for vegans to live; there's a certain cult of meat here. The same applies to straight edge. Alcohol is legal from age 18, and while weed isn't legalized, it's not hard to obtain.

LOCAL CREATIVES: I help organize concerts, booking, designing your posters, logos, and artwork for merch. Mikhail Yefimenko: organizer of metalcore concerts, poster design, booking. Arseniy Zherdev - booking mainstream artists. And that's IT! No one else in Kyrgyzstan wants to get involved.

SCENE STATUS: The patient is dead. Occasionally, we manage to revive it, but not for more than one show. Five years ago, even though there were few active bands in Bishkek, you could invite bands from Almaty and hold a show for 150-200 people. Now there's no real hardcore even in Almaty. The only Kazakh hardcore band, "First Fight", plays once a year at best. In short, it was better five years ago. Now it's as bleak as it gets. I try to think positively, but I see that fewer and fewer people are attending shows, and teens are hardly interested in hardcore music anymore. Everyone is glued to their smartphones, copying silly TikTok dances, and they don't care about "dumb big guys with guitars" shouting about unity and support. We're heading to hell. But our shows still gather at least 70-80 people, and that's encouraging.

PARTING WORDS: All I want to add is, if you're completely crazy and want to do a show in Bishkek—write to me, I'll help you with this stuff. I want to believe that this scene still has a chance; I want to believe that things will get better. All we need is unity and mutual support, or we're all doomed.

RÉUNION ISLAND

TOF

BRIEF HISTORY: Reunion Island has more a rock/metal scene than a punk/hardcore one, even if there are some punx bands. This scene is young, around 15 years old but mainly managed by old people between 30/50 years old (I'm 48 years old so I can tell this ! Ah ! Ah !) who came from other parts of the world (mainly from France but also England, Switzerland, Netherlands...)

NOTABLE OG BANDS: I think the first punk rock band who recorded something here were Circle A and Tukatukas. I saw some pictures of young Reunion Island punx from the 80's but they were only 3 or 4 and it seems that there is nothing between them and the actual era.

CURRENT BANDS: Tukatukas (punk rock), Pluto Crevé (punk), Mothra Slapping Orchestra (rockabilly), Kil Kil (dark synthpunk) for the oldest, fénwâr (punk hardcore d-beat), Monoi! (oi!), Jaws (psycho), Darwin Is A Monkey (punk metal), Entre 2 Révolte (crossover punk), Oxymore (punk rock), Mundial Micheline (punk rock) for the "new" generation. (And a lot more of indie noise rock or metal bands)



PLUTO CREVÉ PHOTO:
NETCHAEV REPORTAGE

ALL INCLUSIVE
(Party Conspiracy)

FÉNWÂR

50 ans
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20h30
+ adhésion à l'association
20€ la soirée / 10€ l'année

LÉCHO DES ÉTOILES
30 bis avenue Pîm Tîpîm - CAMARÉ 974

SHOW SPACES: There are not a lot of places to play. Some pubs who accept "extreme" music: Le Zinc, Les Toiles Noires, La Cerise... Santa Cruz (skatepark), Studiotic (a metal place with rehearsal rooms and space for gigs) and sometimes outdoor festivals or at someone's house. There was a non-commercial venue in a warehouse called L'Echo Des Etoiles opened in April. It was really great to have this here, but they closed in August...

FOOD/DRINK: My fav one is the Quai Gilbert, a cool snackbar in Saint Paul just in front of the sea...or La Cerise (Saint Paul), Les Toiles Noires (Saint Gilles). It's starting to change in the last few years but there are not a lot of vegan/vegetarians people here. I'm the only one in the local scene I know. Traditional food in Reunion is composed of rice, legumes, vegetable leaves and meat or fish cooked separately so if you avoid the pieces of dead animals it's ok... Classicals restaurants can arrange "an option" with less or more interest but at the moment I think the only vegan restaurants on the island are Laska and Midori Kitchen in St Pierre. In some outside markets (St Paul, L'Etang Salé...) you can find nice vegan/vegetarian Mauritius or oriental food.

RECORD STORES: I run the only punk/hardcore record/zine distro and mailorder on this island: Patatrak Distrax. I have a website and I bring my distro with me to gigs or to some events I'm invited to when I have the energy for it! (Ah ! Ah !)

LOCAL CREATIVES: Main rock promoters are Maudit Tang, Au Fond Du Garage, Plus de Bruit, Greenwar... Marko Tattoo and not "punk" artists but talented and good friends: Belly (she drew the Fénwâr's LP cover) and Abeil One. Olivier make a zine called Shut Up And Play The Music, mainly records and gigs reviews, write in french and english and also available on Blogspot! The only other local zine I know called Le Dégourdi Sans Malice, it was not a "punk" zine but who cares, Mag stopped to do it five years ago...and now she do The Hater, a tiny zine just to express with fun her hate of this shitty world and stupid people. Photographers: Netchaev reportage, Mickâel Thuilliez and Sahra (she left the island two months ago).

SCENE STATUS: Not so bad for a little rock lost somewhere in the Indian Ocean. Maybe there's not enough young people involved in it and not enough hardcore and activist bands and certainly not enough cool, non-commercial or alternative venues to play. A lot of new bands emerged these

last 5 years... Not a lot of bands come on tour here and it can be a bit boring to always see the same 5 bands on gigs! Ah! Ah! I hope in the future it will be better and more younger people will be involved to pulse a new energy!

PARTING WORDS:

UP

THE

PUNX!

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

INDRA

BRIEF HISTORY: Indonesian hardcore/punk scene started around the late 80's with the emergence of bands like The Idiots and Antiseptic. Then in the 90's the scene grew more with the emergence of bands like Straight Answer, Loosers, Burning Inside, Lost Sight, Thinking Straight and more. All those bands released albums which are very influential till this day. Then in the 2000's the scene became more colorful with the emergence of bands playing heavier or more metallic hardcore.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: The Idiots, Antiseptic, Burgerkill, Puppen, Straight Answer, Thinking Straight, Lost Sight, Deadpits, Step Forward

CURRENT BANDS: No Excuse, Dazzle, Crime84, Zip, Stomp Brigade, Bleach, Modern Guns, Peach, Insane, Outrage, Defy

SCENE SPACES: Rossi Music, Krapela, Creative Culture space, Toba Dream, Treehaus.

FOOD/DRINK: You could go to Sabang street in central Jakarta where there are a lot of great local street food.

Then there's the Kemang area with a bunch of coffee shops, bars, and cafe's. My favorite coffee shop here in Jakarta is called Tuku, very good and affordable coffee. Plenty of vegan friendly restos too like Loving Hut which is very affordable and then there's Burgreens which is kind of in the higher end.

RECORD STORES: Quickening Jakarta and Lawless Jakarta in the Kemang Area.

LOCAL CREATIVES: I actually run a record label and bookings called Trueside Jakarta. We have been booking local and overseas bands since 2004. Then we have Set the Fire Records who have been releasing many local bands, booking local and international bands shows too. We have great artists too like Anggarez (IG: @Anggarez), Elan (IG: @fr3lan), Firzha (IG: @mobjustice) who have done awesome artwork for many local and overseas bands.

SCENE STATUS: The punk and hardcore scene right now in Jakarta or the whole of Indonesia is huge. So many great new bands have come up and many older bands have started to become active again. Shows are getting bigger crowds. A lot of overseas bands are touring here and there are more hardcore/punk shows and more kids booking shows. I would say it's in a great state. Pre covid the hardcore punk scene exploded. There have been more hardcore/punk shows. A new wave of great new bands. More local bands touring. More overseas bands coming to Indonesia. I feel like the scene will keep on growing and get bigger. I just hope more people from overseas will pay more attention to our local bands.

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ZIP PHOTO: BAYU KURNIAWAN



TAIWAN

WINSTON

BRIEF HISTORY: I'm a more hardcore guy here but I can't really tell the context of Taiwan's hardcore scene before 2010 since I joined the scene around 2012. Back in the time, we had a few hardcore bands in the late 2000's and early 2010's like Human Brutality or Dying Chelsea. They were the first wave of "hardcore hardcore" here to me in Taiwan. They inspired us a lot, without them I wouldn't get into hardcore music. I really appreciate their effort for the scene and they both really did a lot. Unfortunately, they were both only active for a couple of years. To us, the base of hardcore scene wasn't that solid back in the time. We had to dig everything again by ourselves. Then me and my band guys from Defeat The Giant started to organize DIY shows under the name of "DIRTY" from 2016 till now by getting inspired by some videos of basement/studio shows from the States and Japan. Now we also have Suck Glue Boys and Twin Peak Records trying so hard on organizing punk/hardcore shows here, which makes Taiwan's scene more and more exciting.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Human Brutality, Dying Chelsea, The Deposers, Accomplices, Deadpan

CURRENT BANDS: Hateful Rezzpect, Spit!, From Ashes, Toxic Bald, L-Schema, Blade, AHAMA Y, Ozze (new band). And my band Defeat The Giant.

SHOW SPACES: Taipei: Revolver, Continue Music Studio, Pipe Live Music. Taichung: Sound Live House. Kaohsiung: Paramount Bar
FOOD/DRINK: Taiwanese foods are amazing. There are so many options here, but the most popular option for people to hang out after shows are Taiwanese style Stir-fried food restaurants. Almost all of these kinds of restaurants provide vegan/vegetarian friendly options.

RECORD STORES: Waiting Room and PAR store which are two of my favorite stores that sell records and stuffs, they don't really sell a lot of punk/hardcore stuffs but they sell lots of goods that came from the context of street and punk-related music culture. Also, Liberated Rhythms delivers the most straight forward punk goods in Taiwan without a doubt.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Willy from Suck Glue Boys and Chen Yi from Twin Peak Records. They both not only organize shows but also make lots of zines. Billy Lee, Chen Yi, Tina Cho, Scott Wu, Mudan Yang always design amazing flyers for shows. Ian Lin is definitely one of the best photographers for hardcore/punk shows.



DEFEAT THE GIANT PHOTO: IAN LIN



SCENE STATUS: We're still not able to have shows every weekend. Averagely one or two shows a month. Crowds are around 50-70 for local bands, 70-100 for foreign bands playing here. We could make 100+ people come for shows last year but we didn't organize many shows then. It's kind of a trade-off issue now. We're trying to figure it out. Also, the number of bands is only around 10. The scene always needs more bands. The scene got an apparent growth after COVID. More crowds and shows are showing up. Most amazingly, more and more people start to mosh and dig the culture, this is something I never imagined 5 years ago. But the quantity of bands is still kind of same since some old bands broke even though we have some new bands now. We do face some challenge now as we've noticed the growth of crowds is getting flat or even decline in recent shows. Me and the other organizers I mentioned are trying to figure out if there's a new way to book shows, not sure how it will turn out to be. But I'm positive about the scene as long as we're still doing it.

PARTING WORDS: If you see this, come to Taiwan! It's much more than you expected!

DUBAI, UAE

ROMARIO/FAT RANDALL

BRIEF HISTORY: The music scene in Dubai was never massive and has always had peaks and troughs. Because of that and it being quite a transient place for so long, the scene itself was all-encompassing from metal to punk to alt rock, with metal probably being the stand-out heavyweight with the biggest pull. We've had some really good bands over the years with the scene peaking between 2000-2010, but there are still a few bands, both new and old flying the scene flag.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: MidwayM The Sparkplugs, Lipslide, Gandhi's Cookbook, Dead Shakes, Grand Hotel Paradox, Fist In Your Face

CURRENT BANDS: There's not many left besides us, but off the top of my head: Svengali (who pull in hardcore elements, but probably class themselves more as metal), Tsinelas, Umaioska, Culture of Complain, Upslide

SHOW SPACES/HANGOUTS: There's a couple of venues. Oak's Live Bar is probably the main "hangout" for anything related to the scene. The Fridge is an all ages performing arts space that has gigs every now and then. There are a few more bars that have gigs, but this is all extremely dependent on the promoter.

EAT/DRINK: Eating, drinking & getting coffee is a big part of the culture here. As it is such a massive melting pot, you are pretty much spoiled for choice and quality. You can eat cheap or you can eat expensive, but the quality of food is almost always up there! There's vegetarian options at

most, if not all restaurants and quite a few places that cater for vegans as well.

RECORD STORES: Funnily enough, one of the biggest metal promoters in Dubai recently opened a store called Metal East Records, which basically has everything.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Moutasem Kabbani - Owner & Promoter, Metal East Records, Angelo Aguilar - Vocalist (Culture of Complain) & Photographer, Nik Uzgare - Owner & Promoter, Oak's Bar, Adnan Myrhiij - Vocalist (Svengali) & Podcast Show Host (The Unmuted Show), Mohammed Bailouni - Vocalist (Metalcore band - Coat of Arms) & Producer, Romario Fernando (Me) - Vocalist & Bassist (Fat Randall) & Soon-to-be promoter of punk & hardcore shows

SCENE STATUS: I'd say it's in an ok place. There's a definite surge in underage bands which is great because it's coming back full circle from 20 years ago when we were in the same place. Shows don't happen as often as we'd like, but in the coming year I'm hoping to set Dubai up as a tour stop for small/medium bands from the Americas/Europe heading towards Asia and vice versa. Swings and roundabouts to be honest. I'd say we had bigger and more consistent shows 5 years ago, but I'd say because of the kids growing up and doing their thing, there's definite potential for it become something really cool! We're getting Green Day & The Offspring stopping off in January, which will no doubt inspire the people/bands that live here, but also show bands on the outside that Dubai has something to offer.



FAT RANDALL PHOTO: Tom Pratt

There is no punk scene in Iran, just a couple of people that are in different places and cities here. We know each other from Instagram.

Punk for me is based on individuals and wisdom and freedom and it saved my life here in Iran. We have nothing to do. People here are so fucking strange. It really sucks when you talk to people here. It's like you're living inside hell, man. I'm rejected from everywhere in this country because of this dictatorship we're living in. I'm writing songs about anti-capitalism, anti-war, anti-religion, anti-politics, anti-racism, etc.

When I was 6 years old I heard Metallica and loved it at the time. I was into metal and rock and grunge and I heard about Misfits because Metallica had cover songs of them. Then I got really into punk bands when I got to know more about the genre and lifestyle because it was just like my life in Iran... rejected totally from everywhere cuz I love to live it my own way. First bands in Punk that I was blown away by were The Exploited, Minor Threat, Discharge, Aus Rotten, Filth, Circle Jerks, Black Flag, Dead Kennedys, etc. These are the bands that got me into the scene. The current bands I love are Zanjeer, Khais, Eteraz, Enzyme, The Runts. There are so many bands right now that keep the underground scene alive.

MAZANDARAN PROVINCE, IRAN

KAABEH/TØF

I love hardcore bands like Sick Of It All and Terror, Mazandaran from the UK, and so many crust punk bands like Disclose, Disrupt, Shitlickers, etc.

SHOW SPACES: This is Iran, my friend.

There's no hardcore punk band here. There are some bands that are like 80s punk rock but they couldn't have a punk live show because the government would throw us in jail and stop the shows and arrest people for enjoying themselves. They say we are devil worshippers or LGBTQ people which is forbidden for people here and a big crime. People believe them unfortunately. My main focus on my songs is the stupidity of people here. We can do live shows sneakily, we just invite people that we know but the system has so many rats that will be aware of everything we do. We are all under observation here, but many metal and rock bands are having their live shows here in the cafes and some places that are personal properties.

HANGOUTS: We hang out in the streets most of the time. I have some punk friends on the east side of Tehran that are really great guys.

RECORD STORES: There are no records here. Everything is forbidden for people. Everything is like the mafia here. We have so many rappers here that make money off their music, but there are no record stores or labels. Everything is underground. Artists here use Spotify, Soundcloud, and Youtube.

SCENE STATUS: There is no scene but as time goes on, I see more punk people than 10 years ago and I think there's a chance for a punk scene here in Iran. When I get a mohawk here painted in colors all strangers say "Oh a devil worshiper" or "a gay person" then they'll laugh at me. Some young people always try to get in fights with me. I got stabbed three times two years ago, two in the right leg and one on the right side of my stomach for no reason.



SOUTHPORT/GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA

TOBY/ENTRAPMENT

BRIEF HISTORY: Big punk scene in the 90/early 00's. Big hardcore scene 2005-2015. 2016 - 2021 the great drought. 2022 - now a big hardcore scene.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Vicious - the album Monfo Destructo is untouchable, Mourning Tide, Avenge the Dead, Ghost town, Blister, Promises, Third Strike, A Secret Death, Germhead

CURRENT BANDS: Cold Blood, Deathproof, Entrapment, Consequence, Crave Death, Deathrow, Blindside, Hell Awaits, Buckled

SHOW SPACES: Vinnies Dive bar, Southport

FOOD/DRINK: Last night on earth Southport for booze and burgers, Mr PPs for pizza, Cafe Gourmand for coffee, Easy House/Rasoi Master for vegan/vegetarian

RECORD STORES: Beatniks have a good range of stuff, as well as Badlands Records

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters - Most of our shows are put on by people from the above bands, with the help of the team at vinnies. The GC Bugle is a great zine Run by Mark from Used Goods. Nate Rose @wholelottatosie, Raimiee @moonriot, Shane @theshaneoliverexperience and AJ and Ash @deadset.photography are all killing it photography wise. Mark Boyle

@penknifestudio and Dments @aahart are the best in the biz for artwork. Josh Bellchambers is at every show and has started filming sets.

SCENE STATUS: Really strong. Lots of new bands forming, lots of new faces, lots of full rooms at shows, and most importantly really strong friendships. If you had told me in 2019 you'd get 300 people at a local show I would have laughed at you. Southport isn't just six square miles on a map, It's a place in your heart. If you're reading this you are from Southport. Shout out to anyone from Southport.



ENTRAPMENT PHOTO:
Nate Rose @wholelottatosie



MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

Arron Mawson

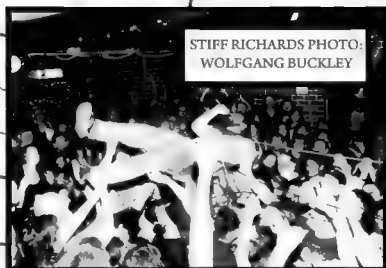
BRIEF HISTORY: I'm definitely not an encyclopedia of knowledge but I can speak from my experiences and the bands and scenes that have paved a path for a lot of the crew I'm surrounded by now. Melbourne is at the top of a bay but neighboured by Geelong & Frankston on either side. Geelong over the early years has produced the likes of Bored, Powder Monkeys, Warped etc which has led to bands like GOD etc. In more recent years some of Melbourne's best garage and punk surrounding Antifade Records has originated from Geelong as well. On the Frankston side we've seen the likes of Deathwish / The Chosen Few in the 70s and then bands like 28 Days, Mindsnare, Eddy Current Suppression Ring. Nowadays a lot of Frankston Hardcore and Punk gravitates around Singing Bird Studios which has rehearsal rooms, a live music space and some of the best all ages shows. I guess a lot of my bands and friends surrounding Legless Records would be bunched into that scene for eg. Stiff Richards, Split System, Cutters & there are bands like Civic who have their roots in Frankston too.

CURRENT BANDS: I can't flaw anything put out by any of the following Labels:

Blow Blood: Christina is the queen of Melbourne hardcore in my mind putting on some of the best shows and also releasing some of the best bands. Antifade: Anything from jangling 60s garage, post punk, hardcore... Billy does an exceptional job. Shipping Steel: Kirk has a 100% strike rate with the bands he releases. One of my favourite labels by far. Rack Off: Last but not least, my favourite gang to throw shows with. Grace & Iso have been doing a great job over the last few years and have an insanely fun community around them.

SHOW SPACES: The Tote recently got saved... again. A huge community effort and a massive move by Shane & Leanne who also own the Last Chance Rock N Roll Bar. 2 of my favourite places to play. Some of my other favourite venues to name a few - The Gem, The Curtin, Nighthawks, Singing Bird, Barwon Club.

FOOD/DRINK: Ahhh man this is hard, Melbourne and surrounding areas are littered with great food but I reckon in times like these we need to be supporting the small independently owned cafes and pubs. Keep small businesses a float, support your friends.



STIFF RICHARDS PHOTO:
WOLFGANG BUCKLEY

RECORD STORES:

Lulus: Predominantly Hardcore / Punk but go in and see Coco and he will always have something random to suggest to you as well. Rowdys: This shop kind of popped out of nowhere and went straight to the top list for me. An insane collection of records, a loaded book section, a small in store stage for shows & some wild merch. Strangeworld: Anything from Soul, Garage, Rock n Roll, Punk or Funk... Ritchie always has a great selection of stuff. Shit doesn't stay stagnant in his shop due to a great online store as well.

Vicious Sloth: To me this is one of the few remaining old school style record shops with a meticulously cataloged store, the fellas in there have an insane amount of music knowledge across all genres. I always walk away from them with something special.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Photographers / Zines: Ben Hudson @distorted.youth & Brendan Frost

Art & Design: Deon Slaviero (Split System) & Ben Portnoy (COFFIN) have both been nailing it lately with anything from posters - album artwork - merch designs - video clips etc.

SCENE STATUS: It ebbs and flows but I honestly reckon that's completely up to the experience of the individual. The greater Melbourne music scene has never shown signs of stopping and I honestly feel super grateful to have so many great bands and people around me. It kind of blows my mind, so yeah... In my opinion it's firing at the moment. For me personally it feels a lot more inclusive at the moment. 5 years ago it felt like there was a lot more exclusivity and maybe a little more separation between different groups and genres but that can sometimes just be your own insecurities too. I do feel like everyone's dropped their shields a little though and it feels like a big happy family and a lot safer place for people to express themselves. I just hope to see the Independent and DIY scene thriving still and I will do everything I can do to keep it firing.

BRIEF HISTORY: Milano has been one of the most prolific punk cities in the world, back in the 80's. A lot of great bands that helped to redefine the modern sound of "punk" where from Milano, or were often playing there. The punk scene has always been pretty healthy, even during the 90's plenty of bands emerged from the city and were able to do records and tour. Nowadays it's beautiful to see younger kids doing their thing and redefining the sound again, it feels like nothing has ever stopped for the past 40 years. Lo spirito continua.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: The "bigger" and most famous band from the 80's which emerged from Milano is Wretched, for sure. Their sound was pretty unique, and they definitely changed the perspective of a specific sound. Wretched were raw, angry, nihilistic, charged with a unique energy. Crash Box, Rappresaglia, Atrox were also from Milano and they still sound so fresh and powerful, listening to them today.

CURRENT BANDS: Lucta, Leach, Potere Negativo, Scalpo, Scalp, Spirito Di Lupo, Narkan, Apoptosi, Scemo, Peep are my favourite bands from Milano at the moment, you should check them out!

SHOW SPACES: Unfortunately a lot of squatts have been evicted in the past 10-15 years, but we still have some great venues and squatts going on. Villa vegan, T28, Cox 18, Casa Gorizia are the main squatts where shows are going on right now, but we also have some other less political venues where we are able to make shows happen. CIQ, ciclofficina pontegiallo and casa di alex are the main ones.

FOOD/DRINK: Coffee in Italy is super cheap and super good everywhere in Italy! It's one of the best things from my country actually, it's hard to find coffee which is more expensive than 1.2-1.5 euros. Milano is a great spot for vegan food! It's one of the most vegan friendly cities in Italy, we have sooooo many places. Compared to other cities in Europe we are in good shape, even if it's not Berlin or London, of course...anyway Gelato Giusto (vegan ice cream spot), Pit'za (vegan pizza place), Alhambra (vegan eritrean restaurant), Linfa (gourmet vegan restaurant), La Colubrina (vegan family run restaurant)...we have so many good spots.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Sentiero Futuro is the main collective doing things at the moment, they are great! They release records, book shows and do fanzines. You should check them out. "Do you care?" also is a great collective releasing zines and doing hardcore shows. We also have plenty of younger collectives more into screamo / skramz stuff, which I am not really into, but they are very productive.

SCENE STATUS: I would say very healthy, very crowded and in a good shape, but it is still difficult to be able to book foreign bands since sometimes people are more into local bands rather than being curious of international bands. But I hope that things will change

since younger kids are showing up to punk shows, and this should be a good sign of being mentally open to new stuff, again. I've seen a sort of explosion of crowd at punk shows right after the covid, younger kids and people in general seem to be super hungry of shows, so it's crazy to see so many people at shows, sometimes. I hope that the scene in 5 years will be as good as it is now, and that we will have plenty of new younger bands going on.

MILANO, ITALY

TADZIO



LUCTA



GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN

GABRIEL SILVERI

BRIEF HISTORY: Vibrant scene in the 80s with a bunch of sick bands, mostly d-beat coded but not exclusively. 90s and early 00s saw the rise of capital H hardcore in Sweden however this mostly happened in medium-sized towns such as Umeå, Linköping and Vänersborg. Gothenburg scene was pretty lukewarm during this period but started picking up slowly during the mid 00s with a slight escalation after 2010 and finally a bigger boom after 2020. Currently better than ever according to old heads, new jacks and everyone in between.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Skitslickers and Commitment Crew

CURRENT BANDS: Sidestep, Dogfight and Master's Plan

SHOW SPACES: Usually it's Fängelset and Skjul Fyra Sex

HANGOUTS: After a gig it's usually Max Munkeback and/or Old Corner in Gamlestan

FOOD/DRINK:

Eat: Mossens pizzeria

Drink: 7:ans ölhall

Coffee: Mahogny, Pho Kim and Cum Pane

Most fast food spots have vegan options. Same goes for Asian restaurants. Blackbird is a dedicated vegan sit-down restaurant.

RECORD STORES: Avart Records

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters: Moral Panic

@moralpanicrecords and X-Up @xupgbg

Zine makers: Bobdog @b_obd_og and Mosh Girls

Photographers: Andreas Ljungman @andy_kungman

Live videos: @gbghc

Recording studio: Gustaf Uicic @harder_recordings

SCENE STATUS:

It's never been as good as the era we're in right now. We have local gigs at least once a month but we also have a culture of traveling to gigs in other cities within a 5-6 hour driving distance.

We had a crazy increase in younger showgoers after covid.

We went from 50 people being a very good number of attendees to having around 200 people on

several occasions. It's simmering down a little bit now but those who remain are dedicated to moshing, doing bands, zines, etc. I think it'll keep going like that for a little while but given the growth we've had in people who now live for this shit I don't think the scene's gonna stop being sick for a long time.

PARTING WORDS: Thank you Zack for having me on here and thank you Staffan Snitting for reaching out. I play in some bands called Bulls Shitt, Outstand, In 2 Deep and Pipe Dream, check them out or don't.



DOG FIGHT PHOTO:
Andreas Ljungman

MALMÖ, SWEDEN

STAFFAN SNITTING

BIG BABE PHOTO: NIK WESTBERG



FLYER: ERIK (Hårda Tider/Kasshuve)

BRIEF HISTORY: Moderat Likvidation was a fantastic first generation hardcore band, while bands like Snobbslakt and Puke followed during the first half of the 80s. During the 90s we had Kurbits IR, Snifter, Driller Killer and Intensity, as well as a strong skate punk scene centered around Bad Taste Records and Satanic Surfers. From the 00s and forward notable bands have included Herätys, Fy Fan, Infernöh, Hårda Tider, Beyond Pink, Skitkids, and Sista Sekunden. Around 10 years ago, a whole fest in Hamburg, Germany was centered solely around bands from Malmö, which says a lot about the number of high quality bands there's been here.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Moderat
Likvidation, Intensity, Skitkids, and Hårda
Tider.

CURRENT BANDS: Kampsport, Big Babe, Lautsturmer, Hårda Tider, Larma, Kasshuve, Manic Ride, Hard Pass, Slip, The Arson Project, Zyfilis, Bloss.

FOOD/DRINK: The neighborhood of Möllvången has a lot of good and affordable spots, and you're likely to bump into punks, even if it is more gentrified nowadays.

Vegeården is a classic all you can eat restaurant run by the Loving Hut cult. If you're willing to pay a little more money the best place right now is Manto, a vegan restaurant with Afghan cuisine.

RECORD STORES: Rundgang, Skivseset
LOCAL CREATIVES: It starts and ends with the Mosh Twins. If there is no moshing, then no promoters, zines makers or photographers carry any importance.

Quarantined Records and Zine need to be mentioned too, though.

SCENE STATUS: Like in many other cities and countries, there are a lot more people at shows, with a lot of younger people in attendance. They're starting bands now too, which is promising. I hope the kids that are storming into the scene now stick tight and continue to have fun. Having seen a lot of scenes come and go over the years I doubt the current state will last that long though. I think the reasonable thing is to hope that a core bunch of kids stick around in the long run and start to take responsibility over things. Malmö has an amazing bunch of lifers who continue to do cool stuff, but hardcore without youthful energy and enthusiasm will deteriorate.

PARTING WORDS: Crush all fakes.

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

LINUS



BRIEF HISTORY: I started going to shows around 2009 and back then post-hardcore was really big. There were bands prior to that but they were very absent in our understanding of hardcore history. There was no living legacy for those bands for whatever reason anyway. Maybe a generational gap. Stockholm straight edge booked most shows up until 2014, where a new group formed that later turned into Acting Out Stockholm. Which is still operating on a monthly(ish) basis. Acting Out only do hardcore shows and Stockholm straight edge does a lot of hardcore adjacent stuff as well as hardcore. Clueless Punx emerged sometime around 2015 or so and does mostly punkier stuff but hasn't been that active lately. But I think these three "factions" and all the bands, crowds and people attached to them, makes up a big part of what I consider to be the Stockholm hardcore scene.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Honestly, Stockholm has never been the best when it comes to hardcore.

Entombed, Nihilist Dismember, Candlemass, Bathory, ABBA.

CURRENT BANDS: Speedway, Feels Like Heaven, Better Than You, Axe Rash, Prisão, Existence, Blood Sermon, Xiao.

SHOW SPACES: Cyklopen, Kafé 44,

Stadsgårdsterminalen, Hus 7

FOOD/DRINK: Full Soul Vegan, Lao Lao, Hermans, La Piccolo Nonna, Herbivore.

RECORD STORES: Tidens Tempo, Trash Palace, Sound Pollution.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Jacob Bondesson/Flubber (promoter, artist, zine maker), Arvid Larsson/Focal Point (Film maker), Acting Out Stockholm (booking group), Clueless Punx (booking group), Stockholm Straight Edge (booking group).

SCENE STATUS: The overall quality of shows and bands are at an all time high. Lots of new people are taking initiative and we are trying to maintain some consistency with shows, although we have a little bit of a venue shortage which makes it difficult at times. We got a lot of active bands that play a lot abroad which attracts some attention to our local scene, making bands want to come here. For the past 10 years few hardcore tours make the trip up north. Currently, the scene is a bit more divided but also a lot more people are going to shows, especially more young people. I'd say that we have fewer regular shows and more big shows, which is a result of our venue situation to some degree. Overall the state of our scene is way better now than what it was 5 years ago. Our clique is very productive now with doing bands and putting on shows etc, but we're all turning 30/recently turned 30, so who knows what that will do to our activity level. In the best of worlds, it won't change that much. I also hope and think that some of these younger kids getting involved now will stick around and carry on the torch when the time has come for us to pass it.

BRIEF HISTORY: Taking it way back, the UK punk wave of the mid to late 70s quickly inspired youngsters here in Belgium to form their own punk bands. Some of the most notable bands from that era were Chainsaw, Hubble Bubble (featuring later pop star Plastic Bertrand), Raxola, PIGZ, and the band that outlasted everyone else: The Kids. In the 80s, when hardcore slowly morphed into what we know now it as, bands like Zykrome A, Heibel, Ear Damage, Hate Crew, Capital Scum and Agathocles were all important in the scene here, building a network and connecting with the Dutch & German scenes for example. Some of these bands leaned more crossover, others were closer to grindcore but they all made an impact. Belgium's first straight edge band - Rise Above - formed in the late 80s and the members of that band went on to do the bands and record labels that would - to a large extent - define hardcore here in the 90s: Nations On Fire, Spirit Of Youth, Blindfold, Liar, Congress, Good Life Records, Sober Mind Records, amongst other projects. I started going to shows in '95, so most of those were very influential to me too. All of this mostly happened in the very West of the country, but Belgium as a whole thrived with bands like Arkangel, Length of Time, Kindred, Rain, Thumbs Down and so on.

After that scene lost its momentum, we had another golden era in the mid 00s, with bands like Dead Stop, Reproach, Justice, True Colors and Rise And Fall, all bands that toured often and made it to the States too. Parallel to that a scene formed around the band Amenra (whose members all come from a hardcore background), all loosely playing a darker type of post hardcore / metal; Oathbreaker and Hessian being some of the better known ones. The 10s were a bit of transition period, with some of the older bands still playing and/or forming new bands (Blind To Faith, Not Afraid, Joshua's Song) and younger bands like Redemption Denied, Blindside, Vogue, Get Wise and Grim stepping in the limelight, some only for a brief time. I'd say that Belgian hardcore has gone through another resurgence post-Covid, mostly spearheaded by Mindwar when it comes to "harder" hardcore. Their peers and friends in bands like Feverchild, Instructor, Sicko, Force, Minded Fury, Everything Ends, Game Changer are among the more active bands nowadays, next to a bunch of cool bands on the more punk side of things; Raw Peace, Hetze, Haemers, Crucified, Terre Neuve and more.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: The Kids, Heibel, Nations On Fire, Blindfold, Spirit Of Youth, Congress, Liar, Dead Stop, Justice, True Colors, Rise And Fall, Arkangel, Length Of Time, Redemption Denied, Oathbreaker

CURRENT BANDS: Mindwar, Raw Peace, Instructor & Feverchild

BELGIUM

BJORN DOSSCHE

SHOW SPACES: We've always been lucky to have a wide network of youth centres and smaller clubs for bands to play in. AMC (Antwerp), Cobra Jaune (Brussels), The Pits (Kortrijk) and Kinky Star (Ghent) are the go-to spots for smaller, rowdier shows. For bigger shows, Antwerp has Kavka, Trix, Het Bos and more, Ghent has Chinastraat, Trefpunt and more, Brussels has Magasin 4, Liège has La Zone, Reflektor and so on. The increased popularity of the genre has also made it so that some of the bigger touring bands are playing some of the fancier venues that can hold 1000+ people.

FOOD/DRINK: Belgium has an insane food and coffee culture. So finding great food, snacks, or coffee should never be an issue here. I live in Antwerp, and I'll say that locally my favorite coffee spots are Eat Dust x Caffénation, Blue, Butcher's and Nordica. As for veg(etari)an food, I love Humm, Tastebuds, Camino, Spritz and Camionette, but there's plenty more.

RECORD STORES: Antwerp: Zwendel (not open every day, part of larger warehouse full of craftspeople and artists), Sugar Pie also has a nice selection. Ghent: Consoling Records has a lot of adjacent genres and some hardcore. Several cool second hand stores in the city as well, like Vinyl Kitchen. Kortrijk: Crate Records, Vuvve has a small selection too. Brussels: 72 Records has a ton, new and second hand.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Peter Vanderlintfabriek in Antwerp, who's been booking shows at various smaller & bigger venues for 30+ years, we have various collectives (Mendville, Boxside, Sonic Excess etc.), doing shows in a multitude of cities and venues. Favorite Belgian zine: Ball Of Destruction. Photographers: @grainispower @in.the.shade.of.mus @yoss photography

SCENE STATUS: I'd say that things are good. I've been seeing more and more young people at shows lately and that is the best. We were lacking that for a good while, but now the balance seems to be shifting. It's cool to see different generations at shows, small or big. Some of the people that were instrumental when I was a teenager are still kicking it, which is very cool, but the spirit of youth is what hardcore thrives on. I think the thing that Belgium always has had is an excellent location, which makes it so that almost every tour passes through, sometimes for even more than one show. So we get to see almost everything we want to. Plus, being from such a small country has always forced us to look at what's going on internationally, which in turn made sure we've always had bands that toured abroad. I think Belgian hardcore came out of Covid in a way better shape. More shows, more diversity in multiple ways, more activity, people rooting harder for the bands from our own scene. It's cool to see.

LISBON, PORTUGAL

NUNO CRUZ

BRIEF HISTORY: Portugal is a small country, so we need to discuss the country's scene. Faiscas were the first Portuguese punk rock band, formed in Lisbon, in 1977, alongside Aqui D'el Rock. Both bands sung in Portuguese and both bands were from Lisbon. Making a workup approach, we can locate the Portuguese punk in a global context, emphasizing its specificities arising from its appropriation in a non-Anglo-Saxon context and in a society located in southern Europe. Especially in Lisbon, at the beginning, and later (mid-1980s) in Porto and Aveiro, punk appeared in Portugal with bands, gigs, fans, fanzines, scenes. It was not so much a new sound, but a new form of identity expression in the face of society, to politics, norms and values, grounded in resistance, in criticism and rejection of the system. It is still important to remember the fact that almost all of the punk bands express themselves in Portuguese until the mid 1990s.

By the mid-1980s, hardcore punk began to take root, with bands like Censurados and Crise Total leading the charge. The sound became faster and more aggressive, and the lyrics more politically charged.

The Portuguese punk scene was deeply rooted in the DIY ethic, with bands self-producing their music, organizing gigs, and distributing their own records. Fanzines played an important role in spreading the punk message, with publications like "Ecos da Suburbia" providing a platform for the community to share ideas and news about the scene.

Some punk bands, like Xutos & Pontapés, achieved mainstream success in the 1990s. Simultaneously, a new generation of punk bands emerged, keeping the spirit alive. Bands like Tara Perdida and Mata-Ratos became prominent in this era.

Over time, the Portuguese punk scene diversified, influencing and overlapping with other genres like ska, metal, and alternative rock. This led to the rise of subgenres and a more varied musical landscape. Today, the Portuguese punk scene remains active, with a mix of veteran bands and new acts continuing to perform and record. The scene is celebrated for its resilience, creativity, and ability to adapt while staying true to its roots.

The Portuguese punk scene has had a lasting impact on the country's music and youth culture. It provided an outlet for dissent during the post-dictatorship era and continues to be a space for artistic expression and social commentary. Despite its underground origins, punk in Portugal has achieved a level of recognition and respect, influencing various aspects of Portuguese culture.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: A lot of the Punk Portuguese acts are listed above, but regarding Hardcore we've seen some names that sung in English and toured around Europe like X-Acto, New Winds, Simbiose, For The Glory, All Against The World, Reality Slap.

CURRENT BANDS: Apart from PUSH!, you have Devil In Me, Cleric Beast, Take Back, Fear The Lord, Outta Spite, Not Without Fighting.

SCENE SPACES: DAMAS (Lisbon), Calabouco (Nazaré), Cine Teatro de Corroios (South of Lisbon), Galeria Zé dos Bois (Lisbon), RCA (Lisbon), Cafe Concerto Rum (Braga), Buraco (Ovar), Barracuda (Porto).

FOOD/DRINK: My friend Ben Silva who has a vegan restaurant called Xéxéxé near the Caparica Coast (south of Lisbon) near the beach. Awesome place.

RECORD STORES: Yes there are, you've got Clockwork Store that also sells clothes and punk fashion. Neat Record Store sells a lot of second-hand records. Carbone is one of the oldest stores in Lisbon, you can find anything from punk to metal, to rap, indie, etc. Louie Louie is a store in the city center where you can find a lot of eclectic stuff and second-hand also. Mundo Negro, right now is only online but they have a variety of heavy genres from hardcore to doom, to death metal.

LOCAL CREATIVES: I'm going to give you two names: Emanuel Lameira from Hellxis records, he books most of the hardcore punk big acts. And João Alves from Infected Records, he books small/medium punk acts.

SCENE STATUS: The shows exist. We have local shows with local bands, and then we have big shows with bands like Terror, Nasty, Madball, etc. So I can tell you that it's diverse. It's a lot better than 5 years ago. You've got a lot of new bands and news kids going to the shows, and a variety of subgenres. Right now you have shows not only in the city center but also in the suburbs, and you've got scenes happening across Portugal.

PUSH PHOTO: @queenpaimon



CZECH REPUBLIC

MÁRA KINDL

BRIEF HISTORY: The hardcore punk scene in Czech Republic dates back to the years between 70s and 80s when the first Czech punk bands were formed. Some of these bands are still playing these days. Hardcore, but mainly punk came to us mainly from abroad, thanks to various magazines (German teen magazine - Bravo). Hardcore bands started to appear here after 1980, they were much faster and more aggressive than the bands before. Punk and Hardcore were heavily censored during the communist regime because of their anti-regime views

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Telex, Šanov 1, Visací Zámek (first records), Fabrika, Našrot, Kritická Situace, Hrdinové Nové Fronty, Modrý Tanky, Radeagast

CURRENT BANDS: Vole, Scoop, Hyacinth, Boost, Hever, Incriminate, Licksplit, Decultivate, Hopes, Eat Me Fresh, Brünner Todesmarsch

SHOW SPACES: Eternia Smíchov (Prague), Klub 007 (The oldest club in Czech Republic based in Prague), Univerzitní Kavárna Družba (Pilsen) Kino Sibiř (Brno) Kabinet Múz (Brno) Divadlo Pod Lampou (Pilsen) Underdogs (Prague) Žižkárna (Budweis)

EAT/DRINK: Eaternia Smíchov (Vegan bistro/café in Prague) Vegalitě (Brno) Bistro Satyr (Pilsen). Dhaba Beas (Prague, Pilsen) Many restaurants in the Czech Republic offer vegan options for people.

RECORD STORES: Day After Records (Pilsen) Rekomando (Prague) Kabinet Records (Brno)

LOCAL CREATIVES: DIY Booking crews: U Toutatise (Pilsen) SlaveXone crew, No Traitors Booking (Prague), Vlasati Pseudoskinheadi Netalentovaní, Stitch (Brno)
Photographers: Ivo Oskar Oswald, Mess Barbara, Karel Vyskočil, Dušan Kilčo
Zine Makers: Marie Fišerová (Mazinerie) Ondra Fastcore (Go and Kill)

SCENE STATUS: Nowadays chain punk, powerviolence, grindcore are more popular than classic hardcore. I think that due to Covid 19 a lot of bands were created, so our little scene has grown quite a bit. There are also a few new booking crews, so more well-known bands are coming to play more often than before. At least that's how I see it. It's also an opportunity for smaller local bands to play with a bigger band and get under the radar of people in the scene. At the same time, I think the pandemic of Covid 19 has resulted in us missing out on one of the best festivals - Fluff fest (Rokycany). I think the scene in the Czech Republic is going to grow and even beyond the borders, because in recent years many Czech bands have been playing in Germany or Austria, for example. There are still new, quality bands emerging here that have a lot to show. I hope that the scene in the Czech Republic will continue in a friendly spirit, where we will all support and help each other and show not only ourselves but also the surrounding countries that we have a lot to show.



SKIPLIFE PHOTO: @kindlos_fotos



BRIEF HISTORY: We don't know much about the early days of the hardcore scene in Zurich outside of a few band names like Profax or Blue Water Boy. We did have Hellhammer and Celtic Frost, the latter of which became pretty influential on hardcore, but at the time that was just metal. In the late 90s, the band Cataract formed and went on to make waves outside of Switzerland, including playing Hellfest 2001. Their members remained active in the scene and kept starting bands such as Solid Ground, Animal Instinct, Lions, Last Warning and Safe State. In the early 2010s, Roadrage Booking started out and carried the Zurich scene for years, getting some of the most influential and legendary hardcore bands ever to play Zurich. In 2015, the band Deconvolution started in Solothurn, not really the same local scene but they were hugely influential on all of us in Zurich and their members come out to shows in Zurich all the time.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Celtic Frost, Cataract, Fear of God, Solid Ground, Mr Willis of Ohio, Unveil, In Love Your Mother (Not all of these are from Zurich city)

CURRENT BANDS: Lifecrusher, XOXO, Divine Sentence, Decay Remains, Safe State, Homewards, Cancel, and if you consider Paleface Swiss a hardcore band, they're certainly notable.

SHOW SPACES: We got two main venues here in Zurich, Dynamo Werk21 and Ebrietas. Werk21 is the best venue in the world, it's located right next to the river Limmat and there's nothing like going for a swim after a sweaty hardcore show in the summertime. Ebrietas is a metal bar in the old town area, where a lot of smaller shows as well as screamo and grindcore type shows take place.

EAT/DRINK: Veganitas, Enzian Bakery, Swing Kitchen and Bakery Bakery are our preferred gastronomical establishments, all vegan. There's also Hiltl, Tibits, Vegetat Cigköfte, and if you've got the money, you can get Michelin starred vegan food at Marktküche.

RECORD STORES: Heavy Weight Records

LOCAL CREATIVES: Besides Roadrage Booking, which we're a part of, there's 8K Booking, Krachkarussell and Nách am Wasser, which are all not exactly hardcore focused but book adjacent stuff like emo, screamo, punk, grind and crust.

SCENE STATUS: Honestly it's been better, we've got plenty of bands but kids don't show up as much as they used to when we all first got into the scene. Like everywhere, it comes and goes in waves, and we just gotta keep putting on shows and eventually the kids will come out.

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

RAMI/DAVE/BASIL (LIFECRUSHER)
FRANZ/GILLES (JUNE GLOOM)

8K HARDCORE & ROADRAGE BOOKING PRESENT
MONDAY NIGHT JUDGEMENT



WORLD PEACE
BAY AREA POWERVIOLENCE
CLEARxCUT
GERMANY VEGAN EDGE
XOXO
8K VIOLENCE

27.05.2024 - WERK21 ZÜRICH
DOORS 18:30 - VIOLENCE 20:00 - DAMAGE CHE 25

LIFECRUSHER PHOTO:
PAT SCHMIDT



BRIEF HISTORY: In Brittany (western part of France), we have one of the most active scenes of France since the debut of punk, especially in my hometown Brest and also in Rennes. There have always been a lot of festivals during the summer and gigs all year long from rock to punk, metal and mainstream stuff.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Les Collabos and Al Kapott from Brest. Collabos was part of the famous compilation "Chaos en France" and Al Kapott was on "Chaos En Europe" which came out on the same label. From Rennes, there was Marquis de Sade, Trotskids.

CURRENT BANDS: Litovsk, Pro-Mess, , The Awkwards, Prisonnier Du Temps, Justice Divine, Toxic Rites, Rouge Sang, Secteur Pavé, In Humankind Death We Trust, Coupe Gorge, Attaque Souple, Le Mamooth, Syndrome 81...

SHOW SPACES: The current situation is really bad to play. There is a bar called Coco's where you can book some gigs but nowhere else. There was a squat (L'Avenir) for 8 years but it was destroyed last year. Now promoters book gigs mostly in the countryside, in private places or other cities close to Brest. There is also a collective of people in Litovsk that are trying to find a place to buy and do a DIY space but it is difficult to find one and to get enough money to soundproof the room.

HANGOUTS: Mostly around a place called "La Place Guérin" in Saint-Martin quarter. It is a famous counter-culture and popular area with some bars like Le Café de la Plage, Le Comix. The squat that was destroyed last year was at this place.

FOOD/DRINK: If you like good beers, you can try "Les Fauvettes", "Le Grabuge" or "Le GDB". For vegan/vegetarian friendly restaurants, you should try "Les Maraîchers", "Alé", and a classic pizzeria owned by a friend of ours called "Spuntino" has a very good vegan pizza. We recommend it a lot! There are also Lebanese, Indians or Asians restaurants with veg options: Tripura, Le Mont Liban, Le Tonkinois, Kafé Kanngui, Thai Phuket...

RECORD STORES: Bad Seeds and Vinyl Shop (mostly second hands)

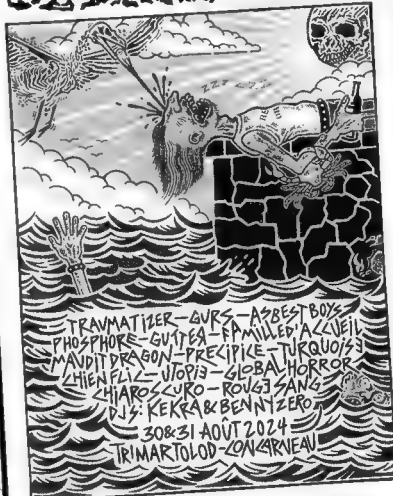
LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters : Ol'Dirty Beat, Le Petit Tonnerre, Collectif Tricard, Club Rade Passion, and we book a few gigs from time to time with the guys of Syndrome 81 under the name of Le Son Du Guelmeur. Photographers : Mélanie Le Goff

BREST, FRANCE

DAMIEN LANNUZEL

SCENE STATUS: Despite the lack of place to play, the scene is good, gigs are crowded and fun but we are waiting for a new generation to do bands and book gigs because it is almost the same people since 20 years. If there are no more places to play and if there is no generation renewal, it could be problematic. But Brest has always been a city of rock music so I still believe in it!

OL'DIRTY BEAT



LITOVSK PHOTO: Mélanie Le Goff

PARIS, FRANCE

LG - HEADBUSSA
DOM - SORCERER
MAX MICHAEL
HUGO ZRD

BRIEF HISTORY: As the French capital, Paris always had a consistent and active underground culture, and hardcore always has been a part of it as soon as it appeared overseas. Hardcore became quite popular with the emergence of metallic hardcore, with bands such as those mentioned below...

NOTABLE OG BANDS: L'esprit du clan - Providence - Out for the count/ Count to react - Kickback - Jack move - Es la Guerilla - Backboned

CURRENT BANDS: Worst Doubt - Sorcerer - Take it in Blood - Moldy - Cold decay - Cavalerie - Calcine - Headbussa - Corruption Pact - Soul Hater

SHOW SPACES: Glazart - L'Esspace - le Klub
FOOD/DRINK: Land and monkeys, Boneshaker, Tien Hiang

RECORD STORES: Born Bad Records, Musicfearsatan

LOCAL CREATIVES: Kevin (Deliverance Records) - Lazygawd (Artworks) - Quentin (Eiffel Assault Shows) - Benoit (Paris Hardcore Shows)



SCENE STATUS: Scene in Paris is really popping right now and has been for a couple of years, with sold out shows and many new good bands, every foreign band coming here gets a good response, there's a couple decent venues, and a couple serious bookers, everything a good scene needs. 5 years ago the pandemic was going to start. Shows were rare. Most good Parisian bands were dead or not really active anymore (maybe except Worst Doubt) so everything was at a low point. In the future, I just hope at least it stays like it is now, and best case scenario, a lot of people will get into real hardcore and take truly part in that microcosm that is the hardcore scene. Maybe the popularity of hardcore will reach even more cities in France as it did in other countries (UK, Belgium...).

PHOTO: RONJA HACKBART



BRIEF HISTORY: The punk scene started more or less at the same time as the rest of the world (at that time this was still Socialist Republic Of Yugoslavia) in late '70's early bands were on major labels but soon the underground scene started all over the country. That scene gained zero coverage from mainstream media. Independent press (mostly student newspapers) were in favor of the punk scene (even they had problems for that because they were controlled by the state) and various youth cultural and student organizations started to book shows such as Ruts, Exploited, Anti-Nowhere League, Angelic Upstarts (and tons of locals). The first fanzines followed soon after. That first wave pretty much ended in early '80's when the state pushed "new wave" as a more polished, clean TV/radio friendly substitute for punk or alternative which pretty much dulled the whole punk movement. As a reaction to that, the first wave of hardcore bands exploded really hard (bit later, like in late '81/early '82) with kids who were hard, loud and uncompromised against the system. That was the start of (in my opinion) the only real hardcore scene in Belgrade made of kids for the kids with strong D.I.Y. attitude. Local shows were all over the city outside of conventional clubs or discotheques. Bands played independent (mostly matinee) shows at municipal centers, school cafeterias, basements, garages... also bands such as Youth Brigade, B.G.K. and U.K. Subs played D.I.Y. shows and couple cassette compilations documented the spirit of the era. I got into the scene a bit later around late '86/early '87. That was kind of the beginning of the end of that generation, but I still had the chance to catch some of it. The next was period of few years prior to civil war '88-'91 had local bands slowly bring back punk shows to real stages and real nightclubs, and also a lot of foreign bands played on a monthly basis : Mega City Four, Dead Milkmen, Spmbrs, Badtown Boys, Disaster Area, Negazione, Slapshot and even bigger names like Pixies, Ride, Perfect Disaster, Nova Mob, Nick Cave, Motorhead, Iggy Pop. It all ended with war in 1991. Beginning of 1992 was for me the end of hardcore scene that I knew and loved. The next generation got into hardcore via MTV. Foreign shows in Serbia were rare in the '90's due to UN sanctions : Punishment Park, Agent 86, Red Eye Express, Blind, Splatterheads, Fur, Tar, Blitz Babies and bigger bands like Body Count, Prodigy. It was all over by the time of the mid '90's punk explosion. For a few years there was absolutely nothing worth mentioning until '98-2002 when people started to be more aware of the posing that was going on, and new bands were again political and D.I.Y. with a lot of labels, fanzines, distros, new places for gigs... foreign bands were coming again, but not for long. 2003 was the rise of big music festivals, local MTV, sponsored shows, and a desperate situation that's still going on two decades later and is here to stay.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Necrophilia, Solunski Front, Distress, Tutto Colori, NBG, Thrash Again, Pouka, Codex Of Death, DLH, Pogrebni Zavod, Ex-Cess, Herpes

BELGRADE, SERBIA

IGOR BASIC

Distress, Marshal's Kids, Brainstorm, Crist, SMF, Hogari, Hands In Ashes, Blindside, Malfunxion, Charlie Don't Surf, Meatmarket, Fishskin, Unlogical, Issues Of Life, Better Than You, Rapsad Sistema

CURRENT BANDS: Nothing Sacred, Deca Manjeg Boga, SUS, Jedi Guv'nors, Nadimac, SPM, Sikk

SHOW SPACES: Zappa and Jugosped are my favorite places to play. Truly independent and run by fellow musicians. Great PA and lighting. There are a few more decent smaller places such as Urmus. The rest are dumps runned by NGO people (false indie/D.I.Y.) ripping off bands to play for free or donation (not a door deal or fixed artist fee) or commercial venues operated by government that are insanely expensive to rent for indie bands/promoters (you get all door money, they get all bar money but you have to pay in advance for backline, soundman, security, staff, posters...in the end you lose money to play there).

FOOD/DRINK: Most Asian food places have like tofu or other vegetarian dishes. There's a few falafel places. Almost every restaurant has veggie options now (which was unimaginable 30+ years ago). Official vegan restaurants are tourist traps. The food is usually great but very expensive by local standards. Coffee is more or less decent anywhere (not starbucks or corporate places, of course).

RECORD STORES: Yugovinyl, Balkanvinyl

LOCAL CREATIVES: Hard Peak, Walk This Way, Headzine, Mudrac TV, Balkanrock, Rock Pokret, Headliner, Serbian Underground Metal, Kososi, VOS

SCENE STATUS: There is no scene, it's more like cosplay for people in their own fantasy version of it (like punk D&D). The same 50 year old posers changed their outfits from skate punk, NYHC thugs, skinheads, youth crew straight edge, emos or whatever was currently cool and empty headed kids who follow their lead and do likewise. Political engagement of some is just copy/paste, pretending to be concerned about situation in the Middle East or former Soviet Union, giving zero fucks for what's going on in their hometown. It's not that I'm not worried about Putin or Trump or any other asshole, but we have our own fascist dictator right here. Corruption and totalitarianism is on the highest level in modern history and so is poverty and unemployment...we should sing about it, right?

BRIEF HISTORY: According to scene veteran Artem (Грунт Палає (Grunt Palaє)), the first hardcore band in Ukraine was Опозиція (Opozytsiia) from Kyiv. It existed in the early 2000s and back then performed with some nu metal bands. It was at that time that the alternative scene was developing, and many bands started within the framework of some Christian church for young people. Even live performances with "slam" happened at Khreshchatyk, the main Kyiv square. Opozytsiia played hardcore punk, which was closer to Comeback Kid, although they also had some breakdowns.

As a separate culture and concept, hardcore gigs began with the Kyiv band Humble Opinion. They played melodic hardcore. The vocalist was Anton "Busya", who is currently working somewhere in the fashion industry. At that time, various hardcore bands had already started to be created in other Ukrainian cities, and bands from Russia were often present at the gigs. It was a time when concerts were mostly held in rap bases, canteens, school gymnasiums, and when everyone sang songs, jumped off the stage and learned how to "mosh". In the 2010s, stable clubs began to appear, where you could play concerts, social networks like VK, Facebook, etc., and people began to come to the stage. At this time, the scene was already divided into several currents: "heavy hardcore" + Rude Riot and 044. This is without taking into account other regions of our country.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: xDeviantx, Time Of Defeats, Strike Each Other, Juggernaut, Power Play, Kentawr, Woundead, Bluesbreaker, Rude Riot, Hell FM, Опозиція (Opposition)

CURRENT BANDS: Terminal Wound, Reminded, Stinx, Repress, Confused

SHOW SPACES: Otel', ATRIUM Skate Park, Teplyi Lampovyi and HVLV Bar. Also, some garages and rehearsal places.

SCENE STATUS: In 2019, in my opinion, there was a small takeoff before the decline. Some bands actively played and released music, festivals were held, new bands appeared, though not many. Over time, however, the numbers of bands declined, and so did interested people. Many moved abroad having an opportunity, or simply changed their life priorities (for example, they stopped playing music). The world and the relationships changed completely in 2022, with the beginning of a full-scale war. There was no time for music. Some people immediately joined the army, defending our country from invaders. Some went abroad in search of a new life. Some people stayed and now either do what they did before the full-scale war while supporting their friends in the military, and some started doing purely volunteer work and stopped doing anything music. Therefore, comparing the past to the present, we can definitely say that the scene was much stronger and more diverse back then.

KYIV, UKRAINE

ROST/TRUE TOUGH

During the 2021-2024, several new Kyiv bands started but unfortunately, due to the war and other factors, some of them are not active, or not as active as they could be. These are the most difficult times for all of us. I hope that the new generation will be interested in the hardcore scene and its various subgenres. I am waiting for the audience to expand, especially with young people. I really want foreign bands to not be afraid to come to us. I expect the rapid development of Ukrainian hardcore culture and the appearance of larger bands that would move the scene and culture further. I would also want stage veterans to renew their activity, but this is up to them of course.



TRUE TOUGH PHOTO: @leslasyanov



BRIEF HISTORY: I got into the scene in 2011, and I believe that the peak of the development of Punk Hardcore shows in Odessa came in 2013-2016, this is due to the large concentration of events, bands and interest in it from new people. It was during these years that the largest festivals such as "Mayak" (ed. Lighthouse) and "Cobra" took place, which gave our city the reputation of the southern capital of Punk shows.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: I think everyone will agree that Aspire and Leviathan can be considered the most influential bands in Odessa. There were many other bands, including those that were formed earlier, but for me, it is difficult to find something that would exceed in terms of influence and so widely and meaningfully demonstrate the peculiarities of such music as a whole. It is also difficult not to note the band Homesick, which now bears the name Flame. If I am not mistaken, it is probably the oldest active band in Odessa.

CURRENT BANDS: Floodlight, Dughouse.

SHOW SPACES/HANGOUTS: More Music Club, its doors are always open for punk rock initiatives and in general for the whole underground movement. Fortunately, there is a Wild Sand restaurant with a completely vegan menu, I think every punk and hardcore kid can get everything they expect from a restaurant there.

LOCAL CREATIVES: I would note Left, who is the member of almost all the bands listed above and many others. Also, Oleksandr Proletarskyi, who hosts the "Zvukoryad" podcast and is the organizer of the "Movement" festival. I watch their creative path with big interest.

SCENE STATUS: We are currently living in a war and suffering losses. These losses also concern the people who were part of the scene, both musicians and visitors. This is

the most important thing that I emphasize for myself in the current situation and over the past 5 years. All the activities of the bands are aimed exclusively at supporting the armed forces, and people from the scene join their ranks.

ODESSA, UKRAINE

DOCTOR/KINGPIN

For example, our Kingpin drummer is currently serving. Now it is difficult to predict what will happen next week, and even more so with the scene in 5 years. Unfortunately, external circumstances have a decisive status today.



DUGHOUSE PHOTO: @VOICEOFDAYS



BRIEF HISTORY: The funniest thing about early punk in Bulgaria is that most bands were actually "industry plants" supported by the government in order to navigate the narrative and control the growth of actual alternative culture. Nowadays some of them are on top of music industry organizations or take part in homophobic hate speech. So fuck those guys and what they (didn't) stand for! Actual punk in Bulgaria started with the birth of the hardcore scene in Varna and later in Sofia in the early 90s.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Outrage, Indignity, Last Hope, Vendetta - amazing 90s bands from Varna and Sofia and all of them are still active!

CURRENT BANDS: Melekh (not active anymore), Redound, Pokoi, Rugged, xChokex, Burialsite. Also, feel free to check my bands Expectations and TRUExFEELING.

SHOW SPACES: The best place for DIY punk and hardcore is Fabrika Avtonomia. Grindhouse is not very DIY (it's a business) but some cool small shows are happening there too. Mixtape 5 sometimes for bigger shows.

VEG FOOD: Kring, Satsanga, Edgy Veggy, Dream House, Sunmoon, Veda House.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Promoters - Alex @141hardcore has done more for hc in Bulgaria than anyone else. Also, Molho @toughlucksquad is very active recently! And of course @bombheart.booking in Varna! Artists - Georgi Ivanov @bai_dracula and Dido Peshev @dido.peshev. Zine Makers - Dimitar Raykov who runs DIY Conspiracy and the paper zine Светола бъдеще. Photographers - Check out

SOFIA, BULGARIA

MIHAIL SLAVOV

SCENE STATUS: Honestly, right now it's the best it's ever been. There were a few years of stagnation but now everything feels like it's picking up again. Many young people are going to concerts and starting new bands. Also, straight edge is here! HC values and politics are starting to be more important instead of only having fun. I'm really happy with how things are going. I can't predict the future but I can be hopeful.

PARTING WORDS: Support your friends, support your scene, mosh hard, go vegan, claim edge, have fun!



BURIALSITE PHOTO: STELLA GOCHEVA



BRIEF HISTORY: One of the first bands that laid the foundations of the hardcore punk scene in Varna and in Bulgaria in general, were Confront. I remember the first show I attended (the first ever) at Humanities High School in 1990: Confront, Maniacal Pictures (still active) and Incase played. I was 13 years old at that time and this show turned me on to this music. This was the beginning of the hardcore/punk scene. Dissident, Mainstream, Indignity, Outrage, Terrorists, Relief, Never Again, Not Brokn In Spirit, One Faith and many others.... there are very few active bands from this period, but fortunately quite a few new young bands are emerging.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Confront, Dissident, Meandstream, BFH

CURRENT BANDS: Behind Bars, One Million Suspects, Indignity, Outrage, On Faith, Another Day, Behind Bars, Axez, One Million Suspect, Izrud, Soyer's Clan, The Devil Says Arlekin, Spontaneous Combustion

SHOW SPACES: The venues for playing in Varna have always been a big corner. Unfortunately, there is currently only one underground location. It's a Alternative space and skate club Halle 3. Perfect for hardcore / punk shows.

HANGOUTS: The place has always been one "Obsa", 30 years ago we used to gather there, and it is still the place. This place is the Nicolaus Copernicus National Astronomical Observatory and Planetarium, located in the Sea Garden and we hang out in the park in front of the building.

FOOD/DRINK: Near the Obsa there are several neighborhood cigarette and alcohol shops where you can buy coffee, alcohol and cigarettes. a few years ago two hardcore guys opened a little hardcore burger restaurant. A great place where we take all the bands who play in Varna to eat there. The place is called The Fists, if you

VARNA, BULGARIA

JIVKO MANEV

come to Varna, don't miss to visit it.

RECORD STORES: Vinyl Home Varna.

LOCAL CREATIVES: I'm not going to list everyone who organizes concerts, because saving a date for an event and making a poster does not make you a promoter.

Bombheart Booking, this is me and my band mate Bozhidar, we always look to make well organized shows, and everyone involved in the event is satisfied.

SCENE STATUS: Weak but it's still alive.

PARTING WORDS: Support your local scene, the people who do anything about the scene, the venues, the friends.



INDIGNITY PHOTO: KAMEN MINKOV

BOMBHEART BOOKING PRESENTS
HARDCORE
MUSIC FOR THE MASSES

Last Hope

ONE FAITH

Terrorists

28.04.2023 - ХАЛЕ 3 / ВАРНА
DOORS: 19:00 START: 20:00 ENTER: 20 ЛВ.

1+1

BRIEF HISTORY: In my own experience I got involved through going to metalcore shows with my friend James. We seen Parkway Drive in the academy and Dublin legends Frustration supported. We got an absolute hiding and then Jay Horgan was handing out flyers for a show the following week and we got involved from there. My first show would've been Xibalba in Fibbers Rock Bar but I was 16 at the time so had no chance of getting in and got refused. Before we were involved the Dublin scene really had its biggest buzz during the recession in Ireland after the celtic tiger around 2008. From the looks of photos, local shows were huge and a lot of touring bands played here, a lot more venues in bars, music shops and other places and a lot more people involved at the time. We're definitely going through a big resurgence post Covid and shows right now ran by Black Water Music are creating a huge buzz and helping to put Ireland back on the map

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Frustration, Bang Bros, The Blind, Crowd Control, Held Back, World Of Difference, Red Enemy, Forced Out, Find A Way, Hollow Truth, No Approval

CURRENT BANDS: I play in GOON DHC. Some incredible current bands are Cease, Bitter Pill, Lost to Life, Blind Faith, Poser (yet to play a show but incredible demo), Bleak Truth, The Guilt DC, Fuath, Special Branch, Strong Boys, Bad Dose, Eskrima, Colourview, Embrace Execution, Frayed Ends, Opal

SHOW SPACES: The majority of shows currently happen in Bohs Bar attached to Bohemians Football Club's stadium

HANGOUTS: Fibbers - the latest opening metal bar in Dublin

FOOD/DRINK: Vice Coffee, Its A Trap coffee (Vegan friendly) are two of the best. There's a lot of great food spots in Dublin, whether it's a bossman kebab or a New Lams chinese, we got it all.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Without Johnhold and Dexter DHC would've died years ago. I'm very lucky to play a very small role in Black Water Music with them alongside some great friends and hopefully we can keep this going for the next few years. Gemma Kearney @gemxshots (Photographer), @onarazorsedge (art)

DUBLIN, IRELAND

CIAN ROBINSON

SCENE STATUS: It's really popping off. We're definitely in a really good position right now and it's only getting bigger and better. We ran our first Fest at the start of the year As One Fest and we made €5,000 for charity and had an amazing day of great Irish bands playing. We're really looking forward to growing that and seeing the scene prosper over the next few years. Not that it was bad before but we were heading into covid and not having shows for 2-3 years really got everyone involved eager to get it back going with a bang whether that's with shows or new bands, it's only gotten better from there.

PARTING WORDS: If anyone ever has an interest in coming to a show or playing in Ireland, contact Black Water Music. We pride ourselves on looking after everyone we host.



GOON DHC PHOTO: GEMMA KEARNEY



BRIEF HISTORY: Punk in Vienna dates back as far as the 70s, with bands like Chuzpe and venues like the Arena establishing. Like most major cities the scene drew influences from the UK wave firstly, followed by US punk and HC in the 80s. One of the earliest HC bands that toured internationally was Cold World, who started in '88. The 90s saw the underground flourish and more venues/bands forming, bringing international acts to town as well as local bands going on tour. This laid the groundwork for the 00s and the following decades with local bands taking cues from all sorts of USHC waves, as well as squats providing a home for political punk/crust.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Anchors X Up, Nothing Gold Can Stay, Mind Trap, Demonwomb, Stillborn, Worlds Between Us, H-Street, Ill Blood

CURRENT BANDS: Monokay, Dregs, Avalanche, Parole80, Pressure Drop, Sicaria, Onkel Gusta, Va Fa Napoli, Ruidosa Inmundicia, Kettenhund, Dice Throw

SHOW SPACES: Venster99, Rhiz, Arena, EKH, Pankahytt

HANGOUTS: In addition to the venues mentioned previously and the record stores mentioned below, bars like Exil or Brauhund, the bookstore Stuerbuch, skateparks like Gürtelplatz, at games of First Vienna FC or Wiener Sport-Club, just to name a few spots.

FOOD/DRINK: There's loads of places to get vegan food i.e. Formosa, Vevi, Pizzis and Cream, Gaia Kitchen, Harvest, Velani... there's so many spots to choose from these days, happy cow is quite helpful around here. Coffee wise places like Café Fokus, Kaffeeabrik, Good Coffee Society, Coffee Pirates, etc. are go-to's, there's

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

SANDRO/DICE THROW

many more to choose from though.

RECORD STORES: Musikversorgung Steiner, Substance, Record Bag, Rave Up

LOCAL CREATIVES: Mišo (HC 4 Losers), Jonas (My Name is Jonas DIY), Leech Pit DIY collective, Capeet (HC archivist & record label), Moritz (Cherry Kiss records & shows), etc. Photographers include Michael Marlovics, Marie Schrentwein, Daniel Eberharter, Florian Teubner, Julie Hill and more.

SCENE STATUS: It's currently thriving with loads of young kids involved, shows happening almost weekly, new booking collectives and bands popping up left and right. It's much more alive than it was in the 2010's when the scene was going through somewhat of a drought, there's definitely been a huge resurgence post-covid. If this momentum of growth keeps going, it'll be in a great place. young kids are currently laying a foundation for a scene that's appealing for other kids to follow.

PARTING WORDS: Considering Vienna is the second biggest German speaking city in the world, it has a rather manageable punk/HC scene including all its sub-scenes which makes it quite easy to become an active part of it. Because of its geographical location, Vienna sometimes gets overlooked and left out of touring cycles, so it feels like local bands that tour internationally have an 'underdog mentality' and rep a little harder for the city. There's much more to Vienna Hardcore past and present than roughly summarized here, there's always stuff happening and definitely worth researching/ checking out.

MONOKAY PHOTO: @sanjandereut



BRIEF HISTORY: I am fortunate to be living in one of the greatest cities in Europe filled with history. Arguably a birthplace of punk rock as we know it starting with so called '77 punk, Sex Pistols, The Roxy Club, and The Clash. One could claim that if you draw a family tree, this would be the very foundation of the things to come with the addition of Ramones, Iggy and maybe NY Dolls. I love how these early, formative days of punk were a blend of various styles and individuals, including all types of weirdos and underdogs you can think of.

The 80s brought in politically charged punk bands, very active The 100 Club, The Last Resort shop and the environment around it as well as the rise and fall of NS skinhead movement.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: The obvious ones mentioned above plus Generation X, Siouxsie, X-Ray Spex. Then you had Crisis just outside of London but highly influential. This whole skinhead scene is incredibly important for our culture - Cock Sparrer, Cockney Rejects, The Business, Last Resort.

Essentially a blueprint for so many worldwide. Oddly enough, I can't think of many London bands in the 90s besides Knuckledust, Nine Bar and LBU posse. Feels like London was in sleeping mode but early 00s just exploded with various bands and shows. I moved here in 2003 and it's been a rollercoaster. LBU (records/crew) had regular shows for years with a wide range of bands in different venues, including the almighty 12 Club. In the South you had The Break In, Breaking Point, Cold Snap and bands around Carry The Weight Records. London's Abolition was a spark for a new breed of straight edge kids and that's on the back of Ninja Fest and its impact on the scene. Dirty Money and Tremors - both pre-High Vis bands. Iron Curtain and Think Twice. Frame of Mind were amazing. We coined this NWOBHC term around that time to mark this incredible growth and exciting time for HC. Then the birth of Quality Control Records and literally a ton of new bands and projects released by Ola. Violent Reaction was 3/4 based in London too although it was still northern Tom's baby. Basement was down south too and this band obviously made a mark too. So many names to name.

CURRENT BANDS: Let's just say that the UK in general is doing incredibly well. High Vis is about to drop a new album and although sonically it may not be the purest HC, these dudes are repping our culture out there. The Chisel is about to tour both west and east coasts of the USA. Chubby and the Gang is about to drop a new record too. Knuckledust is doing their thing. Nine Bar too. New(ish) bands worth mentioning? Stingray is great. Subdued. Temple Guard is an awesome, vicious metal(lic)core band and even if it's not my favorite style, these guys mean business. And finally Dynamind.

SHOW SPACES: The Underworld where you have slightly bigger shows. Legendary venue. Very active New Cross Inn in South London. New River Studios with more DIY shows and that is in north London. Good spot and good people.

EAT DRINK: London is filled with options and regardless of your preferences, you will find something that suits your needs. Central London has Govinda and Vantra. West London has the last remaining infamous vegan thai all-you-can-eat buffet in Shepherd's Bush. Wembley has like 7 pure vegetarian South Indian spots on just one street. East London with Vietnamese and Asian restaurants. Brixton has a couple of vegan Ethiopian joints based in the market there.

RECORD STORES: All Ages in Camden Town. It's been there since the 90s and it's pretty good. The Crypt of the Wizard is awesome and although it's metal-oriented, I always recommend it to people.

LONDON, UK

ADAM MALIK



DYNAMITE PHOTO: JOE STEVEN HART

LOCAL CREATIVES: Let's just narrow it down to bands, labels and individuals directly involved in making and promoting hv/punk within my circles - cats in bands I've mentioned earlier. It's undoubtedly a fuel for a local scene. Tom with Static Shock Records. He's been doing an insane job with his releases and shows. Pako with La Vida Es Un Mus Records. Ola with Quality Control. Nicky Rat just moved out of London but he was doing a ton of cool things around here from various bands, putting on shows to being a dope artist. Shout out to Tin who's another talented artist in our circles. Anna aka Call Me Killer documents the scene through lenses. Alex aka Concrete Culture is one of the coolest. Dude lives for hardcore.

SCENE STATUS: I can't really find many things to complain about. Shows are mostly good or great, solid bands with good people involved. Different flavors and styles and it all exists in symbiosis. What's not to love? I see new faces at shows, kids start new bands and projects so it all grows steady. I'd say that there's a group of around 30 to 50 people and I'd call them animators of the scene - that is the core of the community and things evolve around them. With that being said, I do see new individuals in the game and they build their own little groups which is great to see. On the flip side, unfortunately, it is easier than ever to just swing by hardcore, in and out, without any substance or meaning. You feel like you belong for a hot minute but you don't really care. We have more tourists than ever but it is just a part of where we are and how this world operates I guess. I'd love to see more challenging ideas, perhaps a bit of a rebellious vibe that goes slightly deeper than just loud music. I'm a firm believer that our culture goes hand in hand with awareness and progressive thinking. It might be wishful thinking, but hardcore is as good as you can make it so I try my best. I really hope this love for 90s nu metal bullshit disappears in the deepest void of time.

LEEDS, UK

SAM LAYCOCK

BRIEF HISTORY: I can only really speak on the time periods that I have been around for but it's well known and documented that Leeds has always been a hotbed for hc going all the way back to the 80's. In my time of involvement in the scene here there are various markers if you like that I feel have sparked changes within it. Thankfully these have always been for the better as I think Leeds has always been thriving in that regard. I will say the biggest change I've seen is Leeds having an identity within itself and the bands. When I was a teen it always felt like local bands would just support bigger American tour packages but it wasn't too long until that was no longer the case and Leeds had its own bands that stood on their own. I love the fact that the city is synonymous with having a great and thriving scene under whatever iteration of it that may be. Makes me proud that we were able to contribute to that to a decent degree and have it known as somewhere that you can't skip on tours.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Obstruct, Fade, Closure, Eagulls, Shrapnel, Die, Mob Rules, Hex, Perspex Flesh, The Wound, True Vision, Culpit

CURRENT BANDS: Tramadol, Mother Nature, Pest Control, Total Con, Pleasure, Motive, Last Wishes, Self Immolation Music, Blade, Ego, Big Cheese, The Flex

SHOW SPACES: Boom and Damaged Goods (named after premier Leeds band actually) are the two most frequented DIY spots in Leeds. Boom having been around now for over 10 years it's been absolutely vital for the maintenance of the scene over the years and is run by the singer of Voorhees! DG is a more recent addition and is run collectively within the scene here and again is another staple of all the stuff that goes on at the moment. Other venues like Mabgate Bleach, Brudenell and Fenton also have stuff on occasionally but Leeds is definitely spoilt with great venues.

HANGOUTS: I feel like Brudenell Social Club has always been a place where hc kids / people who are generally into DIY and the arts hang out fairly regularly. It's a legendary venue that's like in the middle of where most people live so I feel like it's always been a bit of hub in that respect.

FOOD/DRINK: I don't like coffee but I know Laynes is good and for food we all love big group outings to this sick Italian spot called Napoli Del Curo which is I feel the most authentically Italian experience you could get outside of Naples with karaoke waiters included.

RECORD STORES: Noiseforheroes is actually a relatively new spot in Leeds and deals mostly in punk/hc! Some other historical shops in Leeds like Crash, Jumbo and Relics have a bit more of a wider range but still have had links to the scene in the past in a more general sense.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Nat Wondergirl photography, Andy Jones (nepotism) are those who jump out as photographers and then in terms of artists, Leeds has always had its fair share. A bunch of in house promoters at the aforementioned venues too and I like to put stuff on that really grabs my attention.

SCENE STATUS: I'd go as far to say it's actually more popular than ever right now here. I'm sure everywhere is experiencing that post Covid boom in regards to general attendance and just every gig being packed out. Really do love to see and by proxy it means that the venues that struggled while no gigs were happening get the help they need. Lots of young, excited and active kids are in Leeds right now doing gigs and zines etc. Nobody likes the oldhead statements in these kind of things but I think more now than ever it's important for the new influx of people getting involved are doing it for the right reasons. I think a degree of gatekeeping is necessary for scenes to not become diluted and far removed from what made it so great in the first place. Nobody wants to see sponsors and lame shit on flyers and everything that comes with that and I think Leeds does a great job of maintaining that DIY ethic that has always existed here.

PARTING WORDS: LEEDSHARDCOREFOREVER



BIG CHEESE PHOTO: NIAMH MCMANUS

COLOGNE, GERMANY

FABIAN RÖSEL

BRIEF HISTORY: The state of North Rhine-Westphalia consists of many urban areas and therefore many individual scenes. Due to the density of cities and its proximity to Belgium and the Netherlands, NRW (and Cologne) has historically always had a large and vibrant scene culture. A figurehead from the 90s and early 2000s is Crucial Response Records, which had a huge influence on the hardcore and straight edge scenes in West Germany and Western Europe. Since then, hotspots for concerts have been cities in the Ruhr area, Münster, Cologne, Düsseldorf and many more.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: From NRW as a whole: True Blue, Eyeball, Spawn, 7 Inch Boots, Iron Skull, Death Or Glory, Black Friday 29, High Score, Short Fuse, End Of Days, Inner Circle, The Ice, Cheap Thrills, Drift and the list goes on..

CURRENT BANDS: From Cologne: Suspect, Phiz (partly from here), Echo Chamber, Reflex, I Recover, Moral Fever, Wonderful World



SHOW SPACES: Unofficial DIY spots and practice rooms. Other frequently used venues are Tsunami Club, AZ Köln, Jugendzentrum Hürth and "Privat".

HANGOUTS: There are no specific places where they hang out, but you're likely to find them at vegan restaurants or 3rd wave coffee spots in the area. You may run into hardcore kids at the Trash-Chic fast food joint, as there are usually a lot of them working there. And the AbenteuerHallen skate park in Kalk.

FOOD/DRINK: Tastes vary, but you can get great vegan food at Fasika (Ethiopian), Chum Chay (Vietnamese), Kamasutra (Indian), Takumi (Ramen), Warung Bayu (Indonesian), Mandalay (Burmese), Freddy Schilling (Burgers), Anju (Korean tapas), Trash-Chic (vegan fast food) etc. There are countless vegan restaurants in Cologne, just take a look at HappyCow.

Cafés to check out: Ernst Kaffeeröster, Habitat Coffee, Coffee Nerd, Heilandt, Van Dyck, Zwoo Kaffeeröster

RECORD STORES: Underdog Records is the No. 1 institution

LOCAL CREATIVES: Three notable labels in the area are Collective Memory Records, DBNO Records and Side2Side Records. They can also be contacted for shows. Photographers: Pat Schmidt. Promoters: Tünnen Booking, LLC Shows, Mort Clique, Backyard Collective. Zines from Cologne: Collective Memory Fanzine, Down But Not Out Fanzine and Fence Post Fanzine (coming soon).

SCENE STATUS: It's the best in years. After Covid, a lot of young people have popped up, the shows have gotten bigger, people have started to get involved and connect with each other. I think it's the best scene in Germany that I've experienced to date. Cologne was a snoozefest 5 years ago and wasn't really worth a mention in the overall picture of German HC. I can only hope that we keep up the energy and that all the young kids that have joined in the last few years start their own things and get involved. People have started to connect and form bands, so I hope that a new generation of bands will follow in the next 1-2 years. In the last 2-3 years we've developed our own identity for the region and I think that's the perfect foundation for the years to come.

PARTING WORDS: It's very important to say that Cologne hardcore is embedded in the overarching community that makes up German hardcore as a whole and Rhineland hardcore. We are friends with people from all over the country and without them and the other bands we regularly play with and host, we would be nothing. Just to name a few: Force of Denial, Preemptive Strike, Spirit Crusher, Slon, Mortal Form, Thrufall, Spiritual Law, Phase, Chemical Threat, Blockage, Face Your Fears, Spiral, Desire Line, Placid, Conceal, Pluto the Racer, Drink Deep, Fragment and so many more. We're in a good place in Germany right now and every band is worth checking out. To international bands: Come play Cologne. Don't book your European tours with dodgy booking agencies. Hit us up and we'll put you in touch with contacts all over Germany (and even Europe). Let's keep this shit DIY.



ECHO CHAMBER PHOTO: PAT SCHMIDT

BRIEF HISTORY: Can't tell much about what was going on before the 00's so I could describe how the scene looked here after 2000 cause it's since when I have witnessed it and participated. The local scene was always pretty cool and diverse with a solid crust/punk division associated with squats like Wagenburg and CRK, few alike labels always around, also some hardcore bands maybe always few streetpunk ones existing too. Loved the early 2000s vibe when the scene was very diverse and you could see many punks at the shows and could confront some skinheads as well. The timespan I am around is def too long to describe in this short column.

BANDS: Infekcja is probably the best known band from that punk/crust side of the scene but there were dozens of others always around plus all the zines and labels like Arcadian Industry (ex-DropOut). The Dog is probably the longest running HC band right now, before there were some tough guy bands like Self Respect or more youth crew ones like Second Age for instance. My old band Last Dayz is probably the name you may be familiar with, We Are Idols maybe as well. Also bands like Lie after Lie or all those emo-style ones... man again it's a big city plus surrounding area there are dozens of existing bands plus many more dead ones.

SCENE SPACES: The city never had a big problem with the venues. I mean there is nothing permanent here but some venues lasted for 5 or more years and there were always a handful available for a HC show at the same time period so it's good. Most notable is probably CRK. If you play a show in here with your band chances are it's there. Madness was the club associated with skinhead bands but its no longer existing, there are also some more metal venues. Again a big city. From time to time I book shows in my hometown so I use a local culture house.

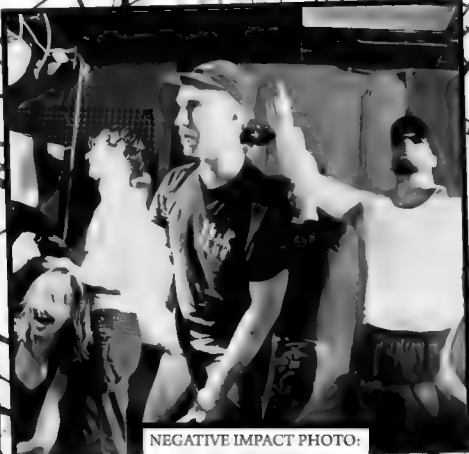
VEG FOOD: After maybe 2010 there have been many vegan places - some come and go but at some point there were dozens to choose from. Friends run Wilk Syty restaurant which I can recommend 100%. But you will always find a veggie option in Wrocław.

LOCAL CREATIVES: For a show you contact Mad and Loud collective. Before most of the bigger bands were booked by core-poration but now Winiary booking who operates all over the country took over. As for people there are too many legends to mention, I am friends with dozens who did it all - zines, shows, bands, record labels but most of them are around 40 years old now and simply move on.

SCENE STATUS: The scene goes up and down with many people like me involved in it for over 20 years still contributing, some more and some less. Before covid there was no new blood coming in but after pandemic it seems kids found some interest in punk culture and they have some own initiatives like OCSK Postoj where shows also take place recently. I haven't made it there yet but I'm guessing the average age at the show may be half of what it is at CRK lately haha. Honestly the scene needs a lot of new kids to take it over because there is a massive age gap between people who contributed to it in the last 20 years and for a long time there were no new entries of kids to carry on. It's hard to compare the current scene to the on

LOWER SILESIA, POLAND

MAC/RATEL RECORDS



NEGATIVE IMPACT PHOTO:
PAWEŁ FRENCZAK



5 years ago cause the pandemic will cover most of the recent time. Anyways before Covid the scene was pretty sleepy and not too exciting and after the pandemic the shows gather slightly more people I guess. As a promoter you gotta make the bill attractive to the younger generation so line-ups seem to be more diverse mixing styles sometimes inviting hip-hop acts - def you need to keep it diverse. New kids seem to be more into just having fun not really digging what punk is and what the scene means like it was back in the day. I have no opinion on it, maybe it's better they don't get so attached like my generation. Back in the day you would call most of them posers haha but things change and I'm all cool with that as long as the shows are well attended and have a good vibe. We def need some new paper zines as nobody makes them anymore. Surely it's a past thing but once a year you just want to read it.

BRIEF HISTORY: Romania has never been a place that comes to mind when thinking about punk and DIY culture. Among the countries that flourished with punk bands and DIY ethics in the Eastern Bloc simultaneously with the West—like Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the USSR—Romania was always lagging behind. In the early '90s, with the fall of Ceausescu's dictatorship and introduction of "Capitalist's western values", punk steadily started to emerge in the West side of the country. Haos (Chaos) in Timișoara and Craiova's post-punk act Terror Art were among the earliest notable punk bands in Romania. Critica Radicala was an important political punk band born out of the ashes of Terror Art when they were beginning to fall apart. They continued the Terror Art style incorporating elements of gypsy folk music into their sound, in what they called—anarcho-gypsy-transmental-punk! Other bands worth mentioning that were active in the '90s punk scene in the Timișoara and Craiova area include Anti Pro, Null 00, Guranii and No Man's Band. The Eastern side of the country also started to embrace punk culture in cities like Bacau, where Scandal and Manifest adopted the oi! and anarcho culture being in a close relationship with the Craiova scene by regularly heading West to play shows there. With the fall of the so called "Communism", and opening of the borders, punk bands from other countries started to include the West side of the country on their tour schedules. Especially Timișoara, where the first shows took place in regular music clubs and bars. From then, a DIY punk movement was born out of need for DIY spaces and rehearsal rooms. Pavilionul 32 from Timisoara should also be mentioned.

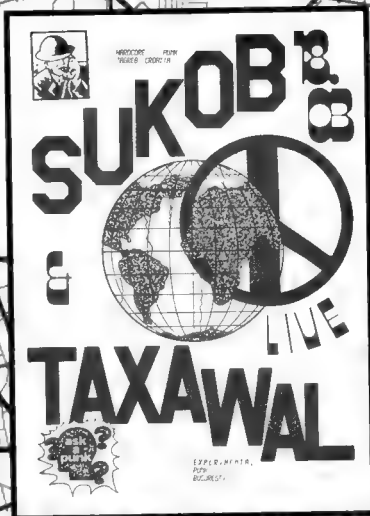
CURRENT BANDS: Denis, Plant, Taxawal, Brainwasher, Martaloggi, Parnaie, Cold Brats, Take No More, Tourist, Grinder (Constanta), Scrag, Slicer, Leather Brigade

SHOW SPACES: Right now, Bucharest has a problem with the lack of small venues for punk, but the few ones where punks can still do shows are Filaret 16, a DIY space located somewhere near the city center, run by a political collective; Underworld, the only punk bar in town; Club Sims, a small slot machine bar that allows for punks to do shows; Nether, a techno club that sometimes hosts punks looking to do DIY shows, and Trei Betivi, a really small bar that hosts local punk shows besides other types of guitar music related acts.

LOCAL CREATIVES: On the promoter side, there's me as Summercide Recs., used to also release records, but now I'm only doing DIY shows. Other promoters include Victor from Brainwasher, who does a lot of DIY punk shows at Underworld, xbucharestx and the collective behind Filaret 16, who do regular shows at their own space Filaret 16, and Otto, from the bands Scrag and Cold Brats who does a mix of hyper pop, noise and hardcore shows or anything punk adjacent. Some visual artists that I would like to mention are Andy Sinboy from the garage band The Nuggers and Bony from Slicer. Also there are some new upcoming amazing poster artists including Figaro from Leather Brigade and Victor from Brainwasher. I'm not really familiar with the photographers in our scene, but one of the most notable who's work has really stood out is Toma Hurduc, he really knows how to capture the energy and essence of a punk show.

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

VOLODEA BIRI



SCRAG PHOTO: DANIEL/DENIS



SCENE STATUS: I feel that there is a lot happening, but at the same time it's not moving forward, it's still culturally stuck in the past, and it's not keen on embracing new things, only until years later, as it's always been. I think the biggest problem right now is the lack of an infrastructure for punk, real venues, or spaces where the punks can get together and share ideas, everyone is improvising to pull off shows, and it feels like the neighbors don't want the punks but also the clubs don't want the punks if it's not profitable. Right after the pandemic there was a huge boom of kids coming out to show, and I thought wow this is amazing, I'm excited for the future, but now it seems that the dust has settled and the show attendance and energy seem to be the same as 5 years ago.

PARTING WORDS: Come play our city!

BRIEF HISTORY: The Basque Country had a significant punk scene since the early days. The fascist military dictator Francisco Franco died in '75, the major industry here (steel mills, shipyards) was in decline, unemployment rates (specially among the youth) were high and the country lived in constant political unrest because of the conflict with the central government...Basque Country was the perfect ground for a huge movement and that's what happened. First bands started popping up in '80 and '81, and a big flood came afterwards. Lots of kids found in Punk something that spoke to them in these bleak moments, the rage of the current situation, the fear of the future, the excitement for new things coming up, the anger and frustration of a fucked up life, everything mixed up with lots of drugs and alcohol. The usual stuff was older guys going to London for a few days and getting to know the scene in first hand, buying some records that got taped to death, or some magazine/fanzine etc. Punk got very popular here during the mid 80s and started to be a must go for international bands on tour. Maybe the best example was the Gaztetxe of Andoain, the youth house of this small town located near San Sebastian have hosted bands like Bérurier Noir, BGK, Funeral Oration, Gepopel, Lärm, Negazione, Kina, Jingo de Lunch, M.D.C., Verbal Assault, The Toy Dolls, etc. etc. (the photobook "Andoaingo Gaztetxea. Historia Tras un Objetivo" is a great compilation of pictures of punk and hardcore bands from the 80s and 90s playing there)

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Vulpess, Eskorbuto, Cicatriz, RIP, Vómito, Kortatu, Hertzainak, Barricada, MCD, Baldin Bada, Anti-Regimen, La Polla Records, Zarama, Tijuana in Blue, BAP, Anestesia, Delirium Tremens, Jotakie, Zer Bizio?, Negu Gorriak, Etsiak, Su Ta Gar.

CURRENT BANDS: Kolpeka, Cuero, Revertt, Sta.Cruz, Ogro, Ziklin, Puro Odio, Aresi, Nork Zer?!, Flash, Armarrri, Eje, Worth It, Aggressive Combat, Kaleko Urdangak, Orreaga 778, Hondartza Hondakina, Katarsi, Agur, Neallta Fola, Aihotz, Vibora, Rotten XIII, Brigade Loco, Vietcong 68, Coldnoise,

SHOW SPACES: We are lucky to have a whole network of "Gaztetxes" (which translate into youth houses, youth centers) all over the territory where kids can book their own gigs, some of them are squats, some other have some sort of legal form (cultural organization, etc) some are more into politics other are more into music/culture/parties but all of them are self-run and they exist almost in every town and village. The ones that have some kind of steady programm of Punk and Hardcore bands are the gaztetxes in Larrabetzu, Getaria, Zarautz, Berriz and Añorga. There are also a bunch of collectively run venues like Irarragirre in Gernika, Sarean in Bilbao, Mogambo in San Sebastian, La Kapilla in Bermeo, etc that book a great deal of punk and hardcore gigs.

FOOD/DRINK: The best place to eat, drink and get coffee are the typical basque taverns where you are gonna find dozens of ready-to-eat "pintxos", which is the traditional 2-bite type of tapa on a bread slice, the pride of the culinary culture of Basque Country.

BASQUE COUNTRY

EDUARD/MENEKU DISKAK



KOLPEKA PHOTO: @post_peione

They are truly works of art on bread, you can find hundreds of varieties, bars even participate in contests to see which establishment makes the best pintxo, it's a very cultural thing here to eat some small bites while standing at the bar drinking and chatting with your people. About vegan and vegetarian spots, in San Sebastian I'd recommend Mapa Verde, Garraxi Taberna and Fresh Green. In Bilbao, I like to go a lot to Veggria and K2, plus Bohemian Lane or Karraska for a nice vegan cake or other sweet treats. In Vitoria-Gasteiz I always recommend the Black Salad and the bar of the free radio station Hala Bedi Irratia. In Pamplona you can find the oldest vegan restaurant which is called Sarasate, but I can also recommend Katakarak which is an activist bookshop that works also as a bar and restaurant.

RECORD STORES: Beltza Records and Skizo Records in San Sebastian, Brixton Denda in Bilbao, Old Tower Stuff in Vitoria

LOCAL CREATIVES: My favourite basque artists related to punk and hardcore are Andoni De La Cruz (@cuero_negro) Aritz Aramburu (@buscandolaluz) and Sergio Devesa (@sxrgiod) There not many zines going on at the moment but the one that's still active after some years is Motive Fanzine. Also, the youtube channel Mr.Musika is doing a great job filming, editing and posting dozens of gigs from Basque and international touring bands. And about photographers, shoutout to @post_peione.

SCENE STATUS: I think it's ok but it could be way bigger. There's plenty of spots with live music (funny how the lack of them is a problem in other areas, here's the other way around) a big "alternative" musical culture, public to attend the gigs, etc so in my opinion and regarding to so many favourable factors there are not enough bands, or maybe not enough bands I find interesting. Most of the basque bands I released so far on Mendeku Diskak started like 3-4 years ago and this new wave brought fresh air and new ideas and a younger generation started going to gigs and buying records. I really felt a positive change since 5 years ago.

MADRID, SPAIN

UNAI/ALENKA

BRIEF HISTORY: Alenka: The punk scene in Madrid began to emerge in the late 1970s, influenced by the global punk movement. Early bands like Eskorbuto and La Polla Records were really influencialo, often addressing political issues stemming from Spain's recent transition to democracy after Franco's dictatorship. However I think there was like a huge punk scene, but not a hardcore one. The 1990s /2000s brought more of a hardcore movement, and DIY ethics, leading to more people making bands, putting up shows etc. However, unfortunately they were mostly all of them lead by a groups of misogynist scumbags, so I'm not naming them hahaha. Nevertheless there were great people like "WeAre" who put up amazing shows! And for the past 7/10 years I think it has been the best, as I think we have managed what was needed. We got rid of misogynists with lots of effort and sweat hahaha and we connected hardcore with political issues as it should be, we created an anti fascist scene full of love, passion and good intentions

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Unai: I'll say from the top of my head ProudZ. Alenka: in Madrid I would say with no doubt ProudZ were very important at the time and right now they're still doing great shows!

CURRENT BANDS: Unai/Alenka: Definitely Asalto is one band to keep an eye on if you like fast and at the same time hard stuff this will do it for you. It's a bit arrogant to talk about us hahaha but I think right now the bands of the moment are Arma X and Desorden. Desorden has released our first record with Quality Control this year and Arma x last year, but we also have a couple of Demos out there. We've been playing since 2018(I think haha) and we've been literally non stop since then, getting to play with amazing bands from all over the world, and traveling to great places thanks to people from all over who have given us the opportunity! Also I think some of the Basque Country bands are absolutely amazing, such as Revert, Arresi or Kolpeka and my favorite from Madrid Golpe de Gracia, are some bands you should definitely check out, you'll love their energy!

SHOW SPACES: Unai: Definitely Wurltizer Ballroom is the most popular venue to book shows in general because it's super accessible. Alenka: Also some squats we have here are really great like "CSO La animosa" and they're always up for a show! A couple of years ago there was these places called "Rock Palace" or another called "Thash Can" that were also a good option, but unfortunately the real state is fucking everyone up and lots of places are disappearing, along with lots of squats which are being evicted.

VEG FOOD: Unai: Mad Mad vegan is awesome. Alenka: There's also a place called B13 which is actually really great as it is super involved in political issues and it's vegan so it's a nice place to go and get something to eat, everything is delicious!

RECORD STORES: Unai: Potential Hardcore is out there for sure but I really like going on non hardcore oriented stores and find hidden gems. Alenka: there's also another one called La



DESORDEN PHOTO. MELINE CHOLY

Negra Shop which has lots of good records too.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Tambores de guerra is the promoter we have here in Madrid.

SCENE STATUS: Unai: I think it's in a kinda weird place atm but the shows are still good and the touring bands and local ones get good reactions from the crowd. Alenka: Last year I would've said it was so so amazing, with less misogynist men, lots of passionate people, lots of women, and a really safe place to be. We tried really hard to make all fascist, sexist and ambiguous people leave the scene. We made something super nice and special where we girls could feel safe and empowered. It has been amazing for the past 7/8 years as mentioned before, even more taking into account before that, it was all filled with men and no woman felt safe. Unfortunately at the moment the scene is dealing with some sexist drama again and it's been a bit torn apart, so I just hope it goes back to where it was, and women feel safe again. There's passion and love again and overall respect and values and everything that we built up together keeps getting just better and better. Unai: I think there's more young people coming around so hopefully we'll have a new wave of bands. Alenka: I just hope anti fascism and hardcore become united again and as I said before, people keep putting their hearts out with what they do and their values really represent all of what hardcore is really about. I hope for safe places and dedication to what really matters.

PARTING WORDS: Unai: All young kids like me out there listen to Judge, mosh hard for bands, watch old videos and start your own bands. Alenka: Be kind, be a good person and always try to act accordingly to your values, they are super important to all the new kids, do it with love and energy and treat everyone right. Hardcore can be the most amazing place in the world if you find the right people!

OSLO, NORWAY

ESPEN & LARS/PROBLEMS



BRIEF HISTORY: Betong Hysteria and Bannlyst are often considered the first bands (1981-) to play hardcore in Norway. Lot of Discharge influence early on - some great releases. 90s: straight edge hardcore, some good some bad (suffering from the mysterious, crappy production a lot of mid 90s hardcore hears worldwide). A bit of all worlds since then: Always some more crusty bands, some weirdos, some clean USHC sounding...

NOTABLE OG BANDS: 80s: Betong Hysteria, Svart Framtid, Kafka Prosess, So Much Hate, Stengte Dører. 90s: Onward, Sportswear, Rectify, Kort Prosess, Tiebreak (Kongsberg) 00s: Damage Control, Hevn, Raging Fugitives, Summon the Crows 10s: Common Cause, Shipwrecked, Blood Suckers, Urbanoia, Evolve, Terrorstat

CURRENT BANDS: Problems, Accelerator, Invisible Hand, Anemisk, Asinin, Draumar and Weight are some of the standouts, but new bands keep popping up like Molbo, Shament and Que Lindo.

SHOW SPACES: Blitz and Barrikaden.

FOOD DRINK: Hør hør. Jamal's falafel is supposed to be good for veg food.

RECORD STORES: Tiger, Neseblod and Rock & Rålls are all worth a visit.

NOTABLE CREATIVES: Den bisarre lyd and Mental booking have put on shows, Aeks kassetts puts out tapes, meekmod films shows and puts it on YouTube.

SCENE STATUS: Very good! Better than five years ago, probably as good as 10 years ago. Many new bands and FINALLY bands with kids. The kids have finally moved from the pit to the stage. There's more people getting involved, starting bands, taking photos and making zines. There's more excitement than five years ago. There's more people at shows. Hopefully a lot of these newer kids will stick around, and keep putting out records and going to shows.



ACCELERATOR PHOTO: WIETSE THOMAS



PROBLEMS PHOTO: MORTEN FREDRIKSEN

SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

OLEG

BRIEF HISTORY: Evidently in the beginning it was punk rock. The first band in St. Pete, Leningrad at the time, or the Soviet Union for that matter, was Автоматические удовлетворители (Automatic Satisfiers). That was the end of the 70's. In the 80's the punk scene was growing a bit, the highlights are Бригадный подряд, Народное ополчение, and Объект насмешек. Eventually, in the 90's you could talk about the first hc bands. Having been influenced by NYHC, 5 углов (5 Corners) and Матрадеры formed. Another outstanding avant-garde band of the time was Химера (Chimera). Early 2000's might be called the golden era of hc/punk St. Pete. Sandinista!, Till I Die, Engage at Will, and Next Round started at the time. In 2010 Vegan Club, a perfectly

named DIY venue, was opened. A large scene formed around it, shows for the bands like YOT were organized, someone tried to beat up Integrity's Dwid for bringing beer inside the venue, it was all there. You have to keep in mind that St. Pete along with Moscow are two central Russian cities and there has always been a constant influx of youths from other regions to here, so there has never been a total lack of bands. This situation changed in 2022 with the start of the war in Ukraine. Many have moved to other countries, bands have fallen apart, the scene has become separated, and it has become unreal to book foreign bands. Still, the new bands have been forming, the shows have been put up.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: 5 УГЛОВ (5 Corners), Till I Die, Sandinista!, Engage At Will, Next Round, Tigerface, Nosebleed, Your Mistake, The Ratcatcher, Part of You, Desacralization, Collision, Dazed, Sway, Bad Karma, Волящая яма, Loss

CURRENT BANDS: Movin' Target, Shadowboss, Murder of Life, Supersoul, Угроза примером.

SHOW SPACES: Fish Fabrique, Dune Club, Lastochka, Griboedov.

HANGOUTS: Co-op Garage

FOOD/DRINK: Stay Gold, Co-op Garage, Kiks.

RECORD STORES: Fonoteka, Imagine Club, Vinyl Box.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Suckerpunch Records - hardcore label and distro, Paranoid Records - hardcore label and distro, HOMM Booking

SCENE STATUS: As I said above, despite the country being isolated because of the war, bands are being formed, bookings set up, and shows organized. It's definitely worse now than five years ago. Before, Russia and Ukraine were tight and that was reflected in hc, there were many collaborative projects and shows/tours. Now that's out of the question. Other than that, not a single band from the US or Europe will go to Russia as they used to. I'd like these dark times to end and the tension in society to drop. I'm hoping for the better.



Угроза Примером PHOTO: @Wladiz



HELSINKI, FINLAND

MIRKO/FORESEEN

BRIEF HISTORY: I gotta start off by mentioning LAMA, who were originally active from '77 to '83 and put out a great set of 7"s and an LP that bridged the gap between classic '77 punk and early 80's HC. In a country with a long history of punk rock, a wave of faster, more metallic sound came along with bands like Força Macabra, Uutuu and Rytmihäiriö for the late 80's and early 90's period. As scene got closer to the millennium, a new wave of more metallic, American-influenced part of the scene popped up with bands like Down My Throat and Bolt and the rest of the bands on Full House Records. Around the same time with them, Combat Rock Industry ran a label and record store in Helsinki, booked tours and shows on a very active basis.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: Also need to mention Nolla Nolla, Widows, Unicef and later on, Varaus.

CURRENT BANDS: Kohti Tuhoa, Forced Humility, Killing Frost, Ydinperhe, Health Issues, Plasma, G.A.Z.E., Ignorance and Dead At Birth. All of which has gotten some kind of recognition outside our borders, despite of being in quite isolated part of the Europe.

SHOW SPACES: Oranssi - Classic all ages venue that has been a cornerstone for the DIY scene for decades. 100 capacity venue in the city. Also a big reason for me getting involved in the scene at early age. Lepakkomies Bar-another affordable underground music venue that has been really important for the last 15 years.

HANGOUTS: Sports Bar is a typical stop for aftershow hang outs. It's one block away from the both main venues and they have karaoke, pool table and boxing machine. So it's either that or pizza at Mäkipupla

VEG FOOD: There's a small chain of vegan donut shops called Round that I recommend. I gotta shout out Noodle Master in Kamppi, Chengdu in

Kulosaari and Ben's Way in Itäkeskus. All of them are Chinese restaurants with great vegan options.

RECORD STORES: Stupido record shop is the last remaining one, but many record stores has good second hand punk stuff available, like Black And White, Hippie Shake, Fresh Garbage, Keltainen Jäänsärkijä and Rolling Records to name a few.

LOCAL CREATIVES: Aleksi keeps himself busy with Circuit Breaker bookings. He's mostly in charge of booking metallic hardcore side of things. Now they are sharing that corner of the subculture with a new collective called Darkside HKI, revolving around the band Forced Humility. Sini is part of the main crew of the classic Finnish punk festival Puntala-Rock and does shows outside the festival season from time to time. Raw Rat Produzioni and Kulttuuriyhdistys 292 have been really active lately too. All of the promoters listed work on a DIY level and put a lot of effort in the scene, which is very nice to see.

SCENE STATUS: It's great. While the 20 year olds have grown out of their first bands and have started better ones and are playing a lot, it seems like some of the older people have been active in trying different roles within the scene which is cool. Overall I think there's much more blending with different corners of the scene than before. Gotta give shout out to this local 40 year old guy Mikko who has played in bands for a long time, but now during the last couple of years, has started a label called Mäntsälä Hardcore, a zine called Open Wound and started volunteering and doing some shows at the local venue, Oranssi. That's a great example of being active in new ways in the scene after years of duty. A bunch of new bands were formed during the pandemic and people had a lot of energy to pour into the scene when the shows started happening again and it hasn't really slowed down since. Hope to see all the today's teenage punks starting a bunch of their own bands. The youth is the lifeblood of this culture and that makes the biggest difference!

PARTING WORDS: If you want to break the typical European tour routes and come up north, don't hesitate to get in touch!



PLASMA PHOTO: EEMI KETTUNEN

BRIEF HISTORY: The first original punk band that formed in Denmark, was Sods in 1977. They played a big part in shaping the Danish punk scene and the bands that followed them. Although it's debatable if Rødovre (where they were from) is Copenhagen, they're considered a Copenhagen punk band. They hung around the same venues and places as the bands who came shortly after them, like Elektroschock, No Knox and Brats. Bands like City-X and Ads also came out of the earliest punk scene and played a role in shaping the scene in a politically charged direction with their involvement with the squatter scene, making Ungdomshuset on Jagtvej 69 ("The Youth House"), a countercultural social center in Copenhagen, given to the squatter movement in 1982, evicted in 2007 and relocated in 2008 to the address it currently holds on Dorteavej 61. The punk/hardcore scene was a rather dead place in the 90's with not so much activity and not a lot of great bands. It's not a very heavily "described" chapter of Copenhagen punk history. That changed in the late 90's/early 2000's with an explosion of bands around the hardcore punk scene in Ungdomshuset and to a large extent the label Kick 'N Punch. K-Town and the rest... is history.

NOTABLE OG BANDS: SODS, BRATS, CITY-X, ADS, KALASHNIKOV, ENOLA GAY, ELECTRIC DEADS, ILLEGAL 80, PRESIDENT FETCH, GRÆNSEOVERSKRIDENDE NAIVITET, GUDDOMMELIG GALS KAB, SNIPERS, AMDI PETERSENS ARMÉ, PARAGRAF 119, HUL, GORILLA ANGREG, NO HOPE FOR THE KIDS, URO, DEATH TOKEN, YOUNG WASTENERS, INCONTROLLADOS, ASBEST, HJERTESTOP, ARRIGT ANTRÆK, RIPPING HEADACHE, LOVE POTION, NIGHT FEVER, BRUDTE LØFTER, LESION, THE WAR GOES ON, JUNTA, CESSPOOL. **CURRENT BANDS:** PLANET Y, GORILLA ANGREG, NIGHT FEVER, TYRANT, THE WAR GOES ON (still active), BIG MESS, LESION, NERVEGAS, JJ & THE AS, PLEASER, TAUNT, INDRE KRIG, MORAL END, PISTOLx3, FEJL MED PH and INDUKTRI, DE HØJE HÆLE, NO NOSE, NORM DOGS, DECORTICATE, CASKET SPRAY

SHOW SPACES: Ungdomshuset is the main punk and hardcore venue in Copenhagen. It's a 100% volunteer run, countercultural DIY space, existing as a continuation of the house given to the squatter movement back in 1982. Also, Basement, Råhuset, Løppen (Christiania), Stengade (Nørrebro), Mayhem. Not a venue, but I gotta mention the longest running punk and hardcore festival in Copenhagen as well: K-Town Hardcore Fest. It started out in the old Ungdomshuset in 2001 and is still going strong, 25 years coming up and relevant as ever.

FOOD/DRINK: Eat: You're most likely to run into punks if you frequent the soup kitchen in either Folkets Hus or Ungdomshuset in connection with a gig. There are a good handful of vegan friendly places in town. Hidmona Etrirean & Ethiopian, Sasaa, Mahalle, Gaza Grill, Kung Fu, Hanoi Alley, POW Pizza, Behov, Pico Pizza. V'Italian that has excellent Italian vegan food and for a truly magnificent

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

CHRISTINA CARLSEN

vegan dining experience, I'll go to Ark or the (somewhat) cheaper version Beyla. Drink: Skovbar, Lygten, Sorte Rene. Coffee: Spidsroden

RECORD STORES: Ooh Aah, Second Beat, Route 66, Extremely Rotten, Sex Beat Records

LOCAL CREATIVES: Copenhagen is a rather small city, compared to many places, so we don't have an overwhelming amount of spaces to do gigs at. Most DIY hardcore punk gigs are done at Ungdomshuset, which is also where I do most of my gigs. I organize gigs with my partner, mostly under the moniker "Hardcore Temptation Gigs", "Punk Radical Gigs" + a variety of other gigs... Wargame records (@wargamerecords) and a crew that call themselves "Fast n Loose" also sometimes do gigs in the more crusty / d-beat minded department + the booking group of Ungdomshuset also organize things here (booking61@gmail.com). Forgiveness Denied (@forgiveness_denied_booking) do hardcore shows in other venues, like Basement, which is a communal place that sort of runs like a funded DIY venue with volunteers running most things there.

Angry Cat (@angry_cat_shows) do more garage and weirdo punk, but throw in some hardcore bands once in a while, at Råhuset, which is also a communal, partial volunteer run space.

SCENE STATUS: I feel that we are undergoing some form of transition at the moment. There are only a handful of people booking gigs in the city and we have "lost" many good people to family life and things like that. Covid was rough for everyone and especially the scene. The new generation are only just getting started with involving themselves in organizing and doing bands and they are still learning. But they have enthusiasm and there's not a big divide between the "old crew" and the "young crew". I think it means that the scene is healthy. Plenty of people show up at gigs and the diversity is good. I just can't wait until all the kids start making their own kickass bands, cause we fucking need that. Like, real bad. Maybe I'm just spoiled. There are less good and active bands around than before Covid, but there are more new kids coming to gigs and getting involved, so the "outsiders" of the scene is really pretty healthy and alive. I feel like we're at a tough point, because the new generation does not yet understand the importance of the international DIY network. They never needed it themselves, so they aren't nurturing it. We are missing out on good touring bands and things we could have done, because of the lack of people invested in the organizational part of the scene. Well, hopefully in a few years those kids will have gone through their first bands and will be playing in decent punk and hardcore bands that we're all excited to go see play. I dream of standing envious by the stage, looking at young kids doing it better than I ever imagined I would myself.

IN EVERY COUNTRY
WE ALL BELIEVE
IN THIS MOVEMENT
WHAT IT MEANS
ONE FAMILY UNITED
ONE HUMAN RACE
CAN'T BE DIVIDED
IF THERE'S NO HATE

UNITED WORLDWIDE

